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### Michael White Political Editor



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The series of inaccuracies which have dogged Question Time look set to rise to new heights as the election camhe failed to do so last Tues day and again yesterday.

In fact, figures published in this week's Economist sug-gest that Britain's 1.8 per cent Image: Mr Major: "Between 1989/90 and 1994/95, unigrowth in the year to Decemversity funding rose by 23 per cent above inflation." ber was below the latest --slightly older -- figures from Fact: The number of stu-European Union states, in-cluding Belgium (2.7), Den-mark (2.6), France (2.0), Holdents rose in those years by over 45 per cent. Fund-ing per student decreased land (2.3), Italy (3.4), Spain (3.9) and Sweden ( 2.8).

Unemployment figures are more favourable to the Gov-ernment's case. Several key EU economies are now slipping towards a recession, in contrast to Britain.

Mr Major's regular

Firefighters at Venice's Le Fenice opera house have failed to save the 204-year-old jewel that is one of Italy's greatest artistic institutions, bu prevented the inferno from spreading in a city built with very little stone and which has no fire hydrants Report and more pictures, page 3

aises fears of renu

out of the building after the

Other answers Mr Major gave yesterday — and at Question Time last week last year was 1.8 per cent; At least seven European Union states grew faster are also open to serious objecthan the UK last year, action. They include his assercording to the Economist. tion that "university funding rose by 23 per cent over and above inflation" in the five Italy grew by nearly 3.4 per cent. years to 1994-95, and his claims that "no economy in 🗇 Mr Major last week: "There are more than western Europe has per-50,000 more nurses and formed, or is performing, as well as the British economy 4.000 more midwives today than when the Gov-

ing heated exchanges at

Prime Minister's Question Time. Mr Major's assertion

that "crime is falling for the

first time in 40 years" under his government was de-

scribed as "factually inaccu-

rate" by criminologists --- and contradicted by the Home Of-

in the past 12 months". Both are misleading at best. Last night Home Office ernment took office." Fact: In 1994 there were 238,780 qualified nurses tables showed that recorded crime fell by 3 per cent under and midwives, compared Labour in 1977 and 1978, and with 204,810 in 1979. But again in 1983 and 1988 under Margaret Thatcher. there were 398,600 NHS nurses, including unqual-The shadow home secre-tary, Jack Straw, accused Mr

ified, community health and midwifery staff, in Major of "selective amnesia", and said that the average annual rate of increase in 1989 — before the NHS changes — falling to 361,460 in 1993. post-war crime has been 8.1 per cent under the Conserto tell MPs: "I see no need for universities to introduce top-

vatives but only 3.4 per cent under Labour. Between 1987-93 it rose up fees. They certainly cannot complain about how they faster than in any other of 16 Western countries surveyed by the Home Office, Mr Straw have been treated by the Govsaid — by 42 per cent com-pared with 22 per cent in France and only 5 per cent in rose by 23 per cent over and above inflation."

the United States. Another topical exchange yesterday allowed Mr Major 95, the number of students at page 4; Leader, page 3

by 25 per cent.

🖸 Mr Major: "I defy you

to find any western econo my that can match the

current economic perfor mance of this country.'

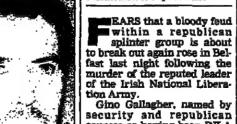
fact: Britain's growth

to the fury of Opposition MPs, that income tax rates, mort gage costs and inflation are at 50-year low levels also begs vital questions. The real level of interest rates remains his-torically high once low levels of inflation have been dis-counted, and the overall percentage of national income taken by all forms of tax is currently higher than in 1979. What Disraeli once called "lies, damned lies and statis-tics" are a constant temptation to politicians. A persis-tent feature of Mr Major's difficulty is his failure to qualify his claims in ways that render them technically correct. Thus on January 18 he told Mr Blair that "there are more than 50,000 more nurses and 4,000 more mid-wives today than when the Government took office". Health ministers usually say "qualified" NHS nurses and midwives, as distinct from unqualified ones, trainees

Hanson to be broken up and agency nurses. Mr Blair had claimed there were 50,000 fewer nurses and 18,000 more midwives since have been treated by the cost ernment. Between 1989-90 and 1994-95, university funding the NHS reforms of 1989-90. Department of Health figures Roger Cowe can justify both claims.

conglomerate which symbolised the aggressive takeover approach of the 1980s, announced yesterday that it was splitting itself up.

David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent



tion Army. Gino Gallagher, named by sources as having been INLA INLA "staff officer." chief-of-staff for less than A statement descr nine months, was shot several

Austin

WE BOTH WANT CUSTODY OF THE OFFICE RUBBER PLANT.

Gino Gallagher . . . shot while collecting benefit

ANSON, the industrial

attack. While Mr Gallagher, who was 32, had many enemies, the RUC is working on the theory that he was killed by fast last night following the murder of the reputed leader of the Iriah National Libera-"getting their retaliation in

The party denied there was Gino Gallagher, named by any internal feud, but admit-security and republican ted that the victim was an

A statement described him as "a tireless fighter in the times at point-blank range as he collected his social secu-rity benefit in a DSS office on the Falls Road in West Belfast.

Hanson split

591

Chemicals Cheimen: Willem Landuy!

Imperial Chaiman: Derek Bonham

Profit 2m

enemy

on fresh political efforts to The SDLP M reduce tension between Lonfast, Joe Hendron, said that don and the nationalist com from what he knew the killmunity over plans to hold elections in Northern Ireland, IRA and was not a breach of and led to renewed calls for their ceasefire. "Whether it is and led to renewed calls for the decommissioning of ille-

The gunman walked calmly | way in which he engaged the | "Those who committed this

Fears that further killings will follow were fuelled by the statement. which said: Controntation avoided, page 4

ing had nothing to do with the part of a feud or not, I am not gal weapons as part of the peace process. In a position to say. What worries me is that it may Turn to page 2, column 3

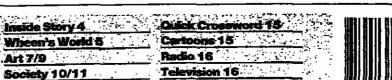
deed will be uncovered and

The SDLP MP for West Bel-

We agree most claims Direct line MOTOR INSURANCE A single call is normally all it takes to agree most clasms. There are no complicated forms to fill in, we can collect your car and return it to you following a speedy, quality repair. It's no wonder that 98% of customers would recommend our claims service to

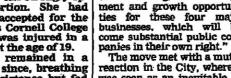
The £11 billion break-up will be completed in time for 348 Lord Hanson's retirement in 1997. It comes less than a year after the death of his partner, Energy Chaiman: Dérek Sonham 460 Hanson Chaiman: Lord Hanson 286 Lord Hanson and Lord | don stock market for Imperial White were two of the mostfeared corporate predators either side of the Atlantic during the 1980s. They were idolised by many financiers Hanson with one of its most and politicians, especially successful acquisitions in Lady Thatcher, who saw 1986 Eastern Group, the electhem as symbolising the ruth- tricity company acquired by lessness necessary to over-turn complacency and ineffi-ciency. Over 20 years they the third flotation will be a built up their company from a US chemical group. motor distributor into one of the most highly-valued com-panies on the stock exchange, worth £15 billion at its peak. Hanson's dismemberment will mean a return to the Lon







7



cline. Hanson shares rose by 7p, adding more than £350 million to the group's stock market value, but one ob-server commented: "Hanson has reached the end of the mod it's been a 30 wars suc

Society 10/11

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Parents 12/13

reducing her to more of a thing than a person," bio-ethicist Ellen Moskowitz told USA Today. "It could tan Katz in New York VEN in a country accustomed to a daily diet of criminal grotes

queries, the rape of a wom-an aged 29 who has been in a coma for 10 years has been met with horror and

Deen met with horror and incredulity. The reaction of the woman's parents has shocked the United States almost as much as the crime itself: they have refused to abort the result-ing pregnancy on religious

The case has sparked a debate among doctors and medical ethicists about

grounds.

sne was nour to inve-and-a-haif months pregnant. The woman's family was told that if the pregnancy was not terminated, she

medical ethicists about was not terminated, she rape, believed to have should rights can be ascribed should give birth in May. taken place in August. A to the woman, whose identity has been withheld, the sould not sanction an the family. "The woman's body is being used as a vessel, cause they wanted a patient aged 49.

etbicist Ellen Moskowitz told USA Today. "It could be offensive to her human-ity." If she is permanently mconscious, however, "the wrong to ber is not profound". The attack was discov-ered in December after pursing staff at the West-just been accepted for the just been accepted for the prestigions Cornell College when she was injured in a car crash at the age of 19.

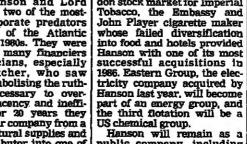
No one has been arrested in connection with the rape, believed to have

Coma rape victim pregnant Lord White, the buccaneering socialite. It will mark the end of an era for industry as the fashion for focusing on a small range of activities

replaces the fashion for diver-sified conglomerates. Lord Hanson said yester-day. "We are making this exciting and radical move to create even greater management and growth opportuni-ties for these four major businesses, which will be-come substantial public com-

was seen as an inevitable at-tempt to reverse a lengthy de-

road. It's been a 30-year success story and they are un-able to progress any further."







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**Obituaries 10** 

Financial news 11

nursing staff at the West-fall Health Care Centre in Rochester. New York, no-ticed a slight swelling of

the woman's stomach. She has remained in a Tests quickly showed that she was four to five-and-a-without assistance but fed by a tube.

## 2 NEWS

Sketch

The Guardian Wednesday January 31 1996

Eight in 10 could become involved, police chief warns 
Services ignoring the problem, says report

# A waste land fit for the bunny



### Simon Hoggart

HAVE a new ritual on week day evenings. At 10.30 I catch the start of Newsnight, up to the bit where Jeremy Paxman says: "In the studio to discuss this we have two prominent backbench MPs." Then I turn over the Kelvin MacKenzie's Live TV on cable.

Usually it's a programme called Stand Up L!ve. This is a showcase for the worst standup comedians in the country. They are almost unbelievably bad. "Polly put the kettle on. Now there's a stupid song. How could a parrot put a kettle on, I ask you?" — that sort of

thing. The jokes are heard in silence by the sparse and mo-rose audience. It reminds me poignantly of the House of Commons during nine-tenths of its work: incompetent per-formers talking to a scattering of bored listeners.

Then at 11pm we go to Bondi Beach for Topless Darts. Two embarrassed young women throw darts at a board while wearing only bikini bottoms. They are rarely good looking, and at the risk of annoying some readers, they tend to look as if the silicone implant have just leaked out.

I have a fellow feeling for the presenter, whose job, like mine, involves commenting every day on a ludicrous and degrading spectacle. Like me, he tends to go in

for heavy sarcasm: "And you can see the crowds here are stamperling to catch a glimpse of Vaima and Kimberley ... while the camera shows a middle-aged man dozing in a deckchair.

Then, all too soon, at 11.02 it's the news, with Mr Mac-Kenzie's own invention, the News Bunny. This is a person in a rabbit costume who stands behind the newsreader offering a mimed commentary on each item — joy. despair, rage. etc. It's fashionable in places

### First night

like Islington to be rude about David Brindle, Social the News Bunny, but I think ervices Correspondent he would be a tremendous addition to the House of

Commons. Instead of his PPS, Mr Major would have the Question Time Bunny standing behind him. Yesterday, for example. Sir Charles Goodson-Wickes (C. Wimbledon) said: "The vast majority of my con-

stituents agree . . . about the need to increase lenient senences. Is it not another exam ple of hypocrisy that the Oppo sition voted against this?" The Question Time Bunny would have bent down and

stuck out its tongue to lick an imaginary boot --- or worse. Then when Mr Major as-serted that under this governnt, crime had fallen "for the first time in 40 years", the hunny would have expressed comical, eye-rolling incredulity, since overall crime has

doubled since 1979. The burny would be non-partisan, so when Mr Major landed a blow on the Opposi-tion (he announced that "governments cannot run companies" and when Labour jeers had subsided, pointed out that he had been quoting Tony Blair), the furry fellow would alternately clutch his sides

and wave a contemptuous finger at Labour. When Mr Major shouted at Paddy Ashdown, who had raised the topic of crime,

"There's no point in you living in some Disneyland, waving your arms around," the bunny (or Commons Coypu — which would be more cuddly?) would go into mincing, high camp, ooh-get-her mode. As Paddy Tipping (Lab. Sherwood) cunningly accused

Mr Major of fibbing (would someone who promised not to extend VAT then put it on fuel be a hypocrite or a liar? he asked diffidently), the bunny would suck its cheeks in mock

outrage. Sir Patrick Cormack rose to nake a joke at the expense of the Liberal Democrats. 'Would you give a firm under

taking that you will not take advice on law and order from party that would change the meaning of the Sunday joint?" At this the Question Time Bunny would have rolled over dead with its legs waving in the air. However, the jest was good enough for Stand Up L've, where I expect to hear it the fast-growing problem of drug misuse by children and young people. It concludes that use of, and experimenta-

IGHT out of 10 chiltion with, drugs and alcohol dren now being born will have ex-perience of drugs by the time they is now so widespread among the young "that this behav-iour cannot be justifiably described as abnormal".

leave junior school if urgent Mr Hellawell said drug-taking had become an integral part of youth culture. There action is not taken to tackle present trends, a senior policeman warned yesterday. was strong peer pressure that it was a "macho" thing to do. Children as young as 11 in Young people were stealing to feed their habits and there was now an unofficial tariff a ocal authority care are working as street prostitutes to feed crack cocaine habits, according to Keith Hellawell, domestic iron would buy a chief constable of West Yorkrecter of cannabis; a new shire and chairman of the Association of Chief Police video recorder would buy two rocks of crack cocaine.

Association of chief Fonce Officers' drugs committee. He was speaking in support of a report by the Govern-ment's Health Advisory Ser-vice published yesterday which warps that health and "The prostitutes in Brad-ford tell me they have a huge problem with 11-, 12- and 13year-old prostitutes who are 'crackheads'," Mr Hellawell which warns that health and said. "The police don't lock welfare agencies are ignoring them up; we take them back

Young addicts Number of new drug addicts aged 21 years and under notified to the Home Office. Thousands. 1.0 0.5 1990 1991 Keith Hellawell: action call

Drugs fear for under-11s

to the local [children's] homes where they have a bath and are out again prostituting themselves for more crack." If current trends continued dren now being born "will have been involved in drugs in one form or another by the time they are 10 or 11". The HAS inquiry found that

unchanged, the chief consta-ble said, 70-80 per cent of chilhelp for young drug users was at best patchy and poorly co-

1993 1994

ordinated, at worst non-existent. Managers responsible for commissioning services were seemingly blind to the reality that children could be anything other than innocent. Jane Christian, one of the inquiry team and a manager of community drugs services in Staffordshire, said: "Sometimes there is a real reluc-

tance to recognise that there are 13- and 14-year-olds who are dependent on heroin and need treatment." Drawing a distinction be-

tween use and misuse of drugs, the inquiry report calls for health and welfare services to be focused on misusers outside the mainstream of society - those in care or prison, the homeless, prostitutes and teenage mothers.

Dr Martyn Gay, a Bristol-based psychiatrist who led the inquiry, said the picture was depressing. "Most of the IMSO; £12

current services are geared to the 'available' - those who have someone, a parent or teacher, who is interested and involved. We need to provide

an accessible, appropriate and effective youth-orientated service, not just a modified version of the service provided for adult substance misusers.

The inquiry report sets out a model of best practice for developing drug services for young people. It says drugs and drug-taking equipment

can in some circumstances be provided to under-16s without parental consent, but warns: Careful thought will need to be given in each case as to how the provision and operation of, for example, a needleand syringe exchange scheme can be justified."

The Substance of Young Need

server.

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# MoD bows to war syndrome pressure



'The doctors said it was just one of those things'

### Sally Weale

S SOON as Ben White-Abead was born, it was evident something was wrong. Not that his parents had been expecting problems. The pregnancy had been perfectly normal and all the scans were clear.

But when he was delivered two and a half years ago, it was immediately apparent that while Ben's right arm was chubby and strong, his left was thin and fragile. His left hand was curled into a fist, which once prised open, revealed that the three middle fingers were webbed and his knuckles were fused. There was, doctors said, no expla-nation. It was just one of

It was only later that Ben's parents, who have since divorced, began to make the connection between their son's deformity and his father's six-month tour of duty with the Royal Engineers during the Gulf

## Stand-up stint without climax

### Robin Yates

................ Mark Laman Cornedy Store

CCASIONALLY, Mark Lamarr's mouth runs away from him. "What sort of crap am I on about?" he asks, as bemused as his audi-ence. Finding himself up a comedy blind alley is a hazard of Lamarr's largely non-script-ed approach, but it's one he usually manages to avoid.

His style is a creative ramble, story-telling which picks up jokes along the way, the vividness of his tale more important than any punchline. "Expect a climax and you'll wait forever." he tells the audience.

Although, like many of his contemporaries, his subject matter draws heavily on the pop culture he grew up with so we have plenty of musings on superheroes and TV shows of vestervear, and a kitsch house band. The Adventures Of Parsley — he also weaves in some cod anthropology. coming on like a heightened version of the bar-room sage, who buttonholes you to offer descriptions of African customs

For the first of a regular, formightly show. Lamarr is in good form, and in good spirits. As well he might be — in his role of host he has gathered round him an impressive lineup, topped by Jo Brand. The quality of the bill is a mark of the regard other comedians have for Lamarr. Bob Mortimer considers him the "best ad-libbing comedian there is." He is also reckoned to be a touch aggressive — an opinion

Sarah Whitehead with her son Ben . . . We are not asking for mega amounts of money, just for an answer probably formed by those who

saw his stint as presenter of The Word. However, as a David Feirhall stand-up, he has always been Defence Correspondent

easy to warm to: on a circuit, where the tiniest aside can be rehearsed, his improvised riffs — bolstered by prepared routines — leave him unusu-

Besides, next to some of the company he chose for his first show, he was bound to appear angelic. Richard Morton, a Geordie comedian with a mities in their children. pleasant manner and a taste for the macabre, has obviously been spending too much time around journalists. What else could explain his jokes about Rose West, whom he imagines advertising lager with the line, "I could murder ome Tennents, me."

There's no time to ponder uestions of bad taste before wo or three years, funded by Lamarr is back — the solici-tous host, making light work the MoD and overseen by the Medical Research Council The symptoms veterans of compering. His approach is set in relief when placed next to the turns of his guests. Both

Sean Lock and Gayle Tuesday (the Page Three Stunna, a well-sustained parody of a "glamour" model) are pol-ished acts, but both rely on well mapped-out material. Of course, it's unreasonable to expect comedians to turn out a new show every pefor-mance. Yet it's equally unrea-

ally vulnerable.

sonable to expect us to laugh it we've heard it all before. Hence, the sharp stand-up who does just that - stand up and perform off the cuff - will always win out. As Lamart likes to say, he might sometimes come out with crap, but at least he makes it up as he goes along other comedians prepare their crap in advance.

loss of memory. The main suspected cause is interaction HE Ministry of De-fence has launched between the cocktail of vaccinations and anti-nerve gas fresh research into tablets (NAPS) given to troops the mysterious Gulf who served in the desert war syndrome, bowing to campaign. Among the 37 nations tak-ing part in Operation Desert Storm in 1991, only American, sure from veterans who lear it may be causing defor-British and Canadian troops have complained of wide-A statistical survey will be made to check whether cer-tain illnesses are abnormally prevalent among the veter-ans, and there will be studies spread illness, with a few cases also reported from Nor-way. The Americans and Canadians took the same NAPS of three conditions - birth tablets as the British. Labour defence spokesman defects, chronic fatigue syndrome (better known as ME).

John Reid yesterday attacked the Government's response as and groups of medically unexplained symptoms. The research is expected to take a "grudging and limited concession". But the armed forces minister, Nicholas Soames, denied his depart-ment had been forced to

complain of include chronic | change its approach by public | limbs, identified by lawyers weakness, depression and | criticism and the threat of | seeking compensation for veterans' legal action. "This is not a U-turn", he told the Guardian. "It is the

orderly, progressive result of three years of scientific work." The minister pointed out that an RAF physician. Wing Commander Bill Coker, began examining sick veterans in October 1993, but in spite of repeated appeals only 360 had come forward, about half the number claiming to suffer from Gulf war syndrome. However there is no doubt

that the MoD was deeply stung by the Commons defence committee's condemna-tion of its assessment programme as "hopelessly inadequate". and alarmed by the 70 cases of veterans' children born with major abnor- in 40. malities, such as missing

Its latest initiative is the outcome of a meeting last week with seven eminent medical specialists called in to validate the work so far and suggest a way forward. At yesterday's press confer-ence to present the new research programme, one of the specialists. Professor Sir Colin Berry, an expert in birth defects from the Royal London Hospital, suggested

that if the 51,000 British troops who served in the Gulf war have since had 15,000 children, as is likely, doctors would expect about 375 of their children to be born with "major abnormalities". The normal rate of serious birth defects in the UK, he said, is 1

The Surgeon General, Vice | was negligent.

Ben is one of about 70 cases so far registered of children of Gulf veterans born with unexplained deformities, including heart defects, malformed limbs and missing organs. If Britain follows the pattern of the US, more cases are PHOTOGRAPH: HEATH BRET likely to emerge.

Admiral Tony Revell, said that if another war were to Many are far worse off than Ben. Last December break out with the same he had surgery to correct threat of chemical and biologsome of his problems. ical attacks, the armed forces though missing ligaments would feel obliged to offer the same vaccinations and anti-nerve gas treatments as in 1991. "It's all we've got," he said. Tests had shown the vacand muscles mean he has very little strength in his left arm or hand, and movement is restricted.

His mother, Sarah Whitecinations and the NAPS tabhead, said yesterday: "My grandfather, father and lets to be safe individually, but he accepted there might husband were all in the army. I would've hoped Ben would have followed some dangerous interaction between them. The British investigation is them, but he is not going to designed to complement exbe able to."

tensive American research. She is also concerned about additional problems he may develop in later life. In America, she said, some children of veterans had Some British veterans of the Gulf war receive disability pensions. To obtain direct compensation through the courts they must first demon-strate that their illness was caused by service in the Guif, gone on to develop such illkaemia. "There's no know. There seem to be no and secondly that the MoD

answers." Ms Whitehead, aged 30, of Ms whitehead, aged 30, or Shanklin, Isle of Wight, is convinced there is a link between her son's condition and the cocktail of tablets and injections her ex-husband took to protect historia against chemical attack by the Iraqis. Yesterday she welcomed

news that the Ministry of Defence was at last taking action, but said she would prefer to see an independent inquiry. "My husband signed up

to go off to war. That was his job. But our child didn't sign up to anything.

"Nobody is asking for mega amounts of money. We are asking for an answer."

Belfast killing raises fears of republican feud

Continued from page 1 spark off another spate of kill-ings within one of the other

organiser of INLA's political wing, the Irish Republican Socialist Party, a group dedirepublican organisations, and I hope that all the good people of this area will use their influence on any members of cated to the expulsion of Britother republican organisaain from Ireland and the estions to make sure there are no tit-for-tat killings." tablishment of a 32-county Marxist republic. In 1983 he was jailed for **Ulster** minister Barones Denton said the attack ssion of explosives. In June last year, he shook hands with the Northern Ire-'serves once again to point up in the most chilling way the reason why the Government continues to call for the de-

commissioning of illegal the Europa Hotel in Belfast. Force members on the Shan- tor for Mr Torney later kill Road. Loyalist witnesses claimed in court that INLA Mr Gallagher was national inactivity, the IRSP has been to the attack claim that Mr had called a suspension of reinvigorated by Sinn Fein's participation in the peace process, accusing the IRA's political wing of selling out on fundamental republican principles.

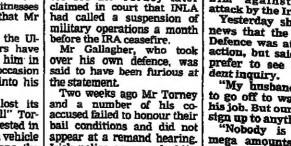
Mr Gallagher assumed a leading role in providing publicity.

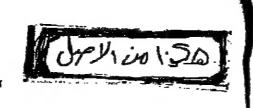
In the months leading up to the IRA ceasefire in Septem- | the Irish Republic in a vehicle

throwing a grenade into his house. Last April INLA lost its leader, Hugh "Cueball" Torney, when he was arrested in

تبكلامن الدجل

land Minister, Michael An- ber 1994, INLA murdered two carrying weapons along the Irish polic cram, at a peace conference in leading Ulster Volunteer Dublin-Belfast road, A solici- for them. Irish police are now looking





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# Opera fire crews saved Venice from even greater tragedy, says mayor

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: MICHELE GREGOLIN

# Blaze reveals great risk to 'city of wood'

### John Hooper in Rome

IREFIGHTERS who raced to the blaze which reduced La Fenice opera house to a smouldering heap "saved Venice from an even more catastrophic fire", the city's mayor said last night.

As offers poured in to help the 18th century landmark rise from the ashes like the phoenix after which it was named, it was clear that its destruction had highlighted a previously underrated threat to the already desperately vulnerable city. While atten-tion has been focused on the dangers from subsidence and

angers from subsidence and pollution, little has been said about the risk of fire. Yet, according to Giam-piero Zucchetta, a fire preven-tion expert at the Italian envi-ronment ministry, Venice is like a "dry match". Its build-ings are constructed of "very ings are constructed of "very little stone and a great deal of wood and the gaps below and between them let the air through in such a way that [Monday's] fire would have burnt much more fiercely if there had been a wind"



# NEWS 3 **Shops warned over** 'poor' warranties

Cliff Jones

etailers who sell ex-tended warranties have been warned that they must sign a code of practice if they are to avoid "effective action" from avoid "effective action" from the Office of Fair Trading. The OFT is giving high street shops until May to dis-play prices of extended war-ranties on the shop floor rather than put pressure on consumers to buy them at point of sale. It warns it will economicate compulsary comecommend compulsory com-bliance with the code to the

Department of Trade and In-dustry if retailers fail to meet the standards set out. John Bridgeman, Director **TV** guarantee General of Fair Trading, said the reluctance of many trad-ers to display prices sug-Price of five-year extended warranty for £450 television gested "they recognise very well that the prices of most warranties represent poo value for money". He also expressed concern that many large electrical goods chains had not supported the code of practice published in December last year by the British Retail Domestic & Consortium. The warranties cover repairs if the goods break down within three or five years. Around 5 million policies are sold each year at a total cost of £400 million.

Extended warranties are most expensive policy cost sold by shop staff. The OFT says that policies are oversold £340 and the manufacturer's extended warranty cost £134. and highly priced compared to the actual costs of repair-Electrical goods are much more likely to fail within one ing the goods. It found that the average price for a fiveyear of purchase than they are in years two to five, and to year warranty for a £450 colour television cost an aver-age £96.99 when the manufacbe covered by a standard manufacturer's warranty or by the Sale and Supply of turer's policy cost only £84. Goods Act 1994. The Consumers' Associa-tion suggests setting up a "repair fund" savings ac-The average repair, however,

cost only £30. The prices on warranties were also found to vary count to pay for any repairs. It says that customers can widely between retailers. A five-year extended warranty on a washing machine cost £170.70 at Currys while the cheapest quote for the same model came to £94.95. The save money by dipping into the account to pay for servicing which will probably be cheaper than the repair costs.

Currys

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The OFT is also calling for measures to grant customers a cooling-off period in which to consider the benefits of varranties, Customers would be able to compare the prices of different policies before they pay for a warranty, but it says "changes would be nec-essary if a fair and competi-tive market work to emerge" tive market were to emerge". The code states that sales staff should also be trained on

details of the policies, many of which contain ambiguous exclusion clauses. The Code of Practice states that the warranty contracts must be written in plain English and should not contain unreasonable restric-

Source: Office of Fair Trading

**Taped royal call on hold** 

bells in Buckingham Palace,

Paper warns it might publish duke's 'sensitive' comments

### Edward Pilkington

the newspaper's editor, Stuart Higgins, said publication at a Blast night faced the prospect of further later date "could become in the public interest". Mr Higgins referred to eardamaging press coverage after a tabloid newspaper reserved the right to publish "politically embarrassing" lier cases of taped conversa-tions involving members of the royal family where details have been printed in this country following publication abroad. In 1992 tapes of an inextracts of a tape recording alleged to have been made of a private telephone conversatimate discussion between tion involving the Duke of the Prince of Wales and Ca-milla Parker-Bowles were Edinburgh. The Sun said it had no first run in full in the New

plans to print extracts from the conversation between the Idea, an Australian magazine owned by the Sun's propriduke and an unidentified etor, Rupert Murdoch. Yesterday the Palace was following the tactic it has woman as there was "no justification to run the dialogue at adopted in three previous at this stage". But in a com-

tions by refusing to comment. Aides take the view that any response would inadvertently add credence to the story.

If hints dropped yesterday by the Sun are to be believed, the palace could have reason to be fearful. The paper said that the recorded conversation, which lasts 17 minutes contained comments made by the duke concerning "sensi tive issues" in which he referred to the Prime Minister, Mrs Parker-Bowles, and the impending divorce be-tween the Prince and Prin-

cess of Wales. The telephone call is al-leged to have been made by the duke from Sandringham on December 21 last year. It was intercepted by an amateur snooper using a £200 scanning machine. The man tried to sell the tape to the newspaper, but it insisted no ment that will ring alarm | cases of taped royal conversa- | payment had

with a network of hydrants, so water - salt water, what is more - has to be taken from the canals each time a fire has to be put out," adding to the damage caused by the flames, he said.

"This city is built entirely of wood," the city's fire chief, Alfio Pini said. "It's a city where you can't move around except by the canals, which are sometimes navigable and sometimes not. We have been saying for ages this city is at very great risk." Venice's leftwing mayor,

for more than a year, Mr Zuc-Massimo Cacciari, said that the fire brigade had trained chetta said. La Fenice was closed for hoses on the blaze within 20 minutes of it being detected. But it also emerged yesterday that, because nearby canals were being dredged, fire crews were unable to use chillo, the secretary of the of the total cost of the opera

opera workers' union, said | house rebuilding ranged from their motor launches. Water that, by law, a caretaker and had to be numped from the two firefighters should have Grand Canal and raised from the Venice lagoon by helicop-ter to douse the flames that been on the premises all night. He said La Fenice was leapt 150ft into the night sky. Ironically, the canals were being cleared to allow emerequipped with an extinguisher "every 30 metres".

Two inquiries were yester-day launched into the origins gency services to reach the opera bouse. It had already been banned from holding performances at low tide for this reason. The work, which of the fire, which burned for nine hours and left only four black walls standing precari-ously. One inquiry is being conducted by state prosecu-tors; the other by the city should have taken a few months, had been in progress

council. The Italian government

said yesterday that, as a first step towards rebuilding La Fenice, it would ask parliato rebuild the Fenice "like it was before, where it was be-fore and — even though I think it will be difficult — better than it was before, but definitely with better safety

# Nightmare stalking great theatres

Venice's La Fenice is the latest great opera house to fall to the flames in the past few decades, writes Martin Kettle

VENICE'S famous opera house, the Gran Teatro La Fenice, which Dame Joan Sutherland has called the most beautiful in the world, lies in ashes this morning, victim of the nightmare of all great theatres - the stray spark which in minutes can lay waste the work and tradi-

tions of centuries. The predominantly wooden La Fenice is the latup of opera houses. But ac-cidental fire is the great leveller of all theatres, most of which are vast and drafty potential ovens, full of one howsthile motorial est opera house to fall to the flames in the past de-cade. In Italy, the opera house in Barl, one of only two major lyric theatres south of Rome, was gutted in 1991 and has still not been rebuilt. The Liceu in Barcelona, where José Car-reras and Monserrat Ca-ballé began their careers. and often vulnerable to the smallest ignition. La Fenice, which means "phoenix" in Italian, has been destroyed by fire once before, in December 1836.

Then as now, the Venetian balle began their careers, also perished, in a January 1994 blaze. The Frankfurt Opera, now reopened, was

begun in 1790 on the site of | ice because the censorship another building wrecked by fire, which is crammed was less strict than else where in Italy. Verdi wrote between a network of small canals on the Piazza San Fantin, just to the west of five operas for the Fenice: Ernani, Attila, Rigoletto, St Mark's Square. The 19th century restora-

tion took less than a year. This time, however, the job is certain to take much

longer. Opera was invented in Venice. No theatre, not even La Scala in Milan, has a musical pedigree to com-pare with it. Rossini's Tan-gradi and Semiramide warm to the ground in 1073. Richard Wagner once proposed to build an opera house which would be de-Ilberately ignited once and performance was over. More recently, Pierre Bou-lez advocated the blowing up of opera houses. But ac-eidented fire is the great liberately ignited once the Tenda and Donizetti's Belisario and Marla di Rudenz. drafty potential ovens, full In the 20th century, the of combustible material Fenice saw the first perforrenice saw the hist perior-mances of such works as Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress, Prokofiev's Fiery Angel and Benjamin Brit-ten's The Turn of the Screw, premiered in Venice in 1954.

La Traviata and Simon Boccanegra. Many opera-lovers regard La Fenice as the world's finest opera house. With its curves, its rococo decoration, its five levels of

300 to 500 billion lire.

up a restoration plan.

television.

precautions."

Federico Mayor, head of the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural

Organisation said the Paris-based agency would help to

assess the damage and draw

Among offers of help was

Pavarotti. "I will be very will-ing to do a fund-raising con-cert, for free," he told British

A regional councillor, Ce-sare Campa, said the aim was

blue and gold boxes and galleries and its crystal chandeliers, the Venice opera radiated a matchless theatrical warmth.

Marcel Proust praised the Fenice for its "under-water light", and the Venetian theatre historian, Maria Teresa Muraro, has said that its sense of intimacy — the Fenice seated only 900 — was unlike any other theatre in the world. Singers from Maria Callas down have always par-ticularly appreciated the

Fenice's glowing acoustics, derived from an all-wooden interior which was the authorities set about re-creating Antonio Selva's association is with Verdi, original theatre, first who liked writing for Ven-incineration. theatre's glory but which fuelled its latest

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"If we cannot save Stonehenge from the Department of Transport, then nothing is safe. It is a symbol of British heritage and we would be letting down our predecessors who fought so hard to buy the land." Paul Brown talks to the new boss of the National Trust

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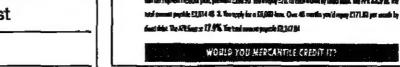
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# **4 BRITAIN**

### News in brief

## **Jeweller guilty** of gold VAT plot

A JEWELLER said to have been involved in a £20 million gold smuggling operation with a woman police constable was yester-day found guilty of conspiring to evade VAT on the importation of bullion.

Surrinder Kumar, described as a "prolific courier" during the 18-month long conspiracy, helped his fugitive brother make millions from the fraud, Knightsbridge crown court was told. The 32-year-old businessman, of Sutton Coldfield, West Mid-

lands, faces up to seven years in jail.

The jury resumes deliberations today on probationary police officer Lucie Gilmore, 25.

### Eggar to quit as MP

THE energy minister, Tim Eggar, announced yesterday that he will not be fighting the next general election, the 52nd Conserva-tive MP and second minister to do so. Mr Eggar, 44, MP for Enfield North with a majority of 9,430, insisted the decision was purely a

Career move and had no political implications. "There done 17 years as an MP, 11 of which have been as a minister." He wanted to seek "fresh challenges and opportunities back in the private sector". Transport minister Steven Norris is also leaving.

Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, accused Mr Eggar of "jumping before he is pushed", claiming his decision was realisa-tion that he has no chance of winning the seat, the 140th most marginal in the country. — Rebecca Smithers

### Newbury camp removed

THE Highways Agency yesterday removed the first protest camp

THE Highways Agency yesterday removed the first protest camp from the route of the Newbury bypass. Inhabitants of the Gro-tan camp fled up trees as security guards dismantled a large bender and confiscated the contents. Friends of the Earth accused the Highways Agency of sanction-ing illegal activity. But a Highways Agency spokesman said that their lawyers had told them they were allowed to remove "unoc-cupied dwellings" from the route of the proposed A34 bypass. — Alex Bellos

### Murder case boy remanded

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy was remanded in custody yesterday charged with the murder of pensioner Douglas Holman, 72, the retired nurse found dying in the front room of his home in Camborne,

Cornwall last weekend. The youth, who was arrested on Monday night, was remanded in custody until February 7 by Camborne youth court. Two 14-year-old boys were still being questioned last night. Geoffrey Gibbs

### Whales' burial delayed

CONTRACTORS disposing of six whales which died after becom-

ing stranded on a North Sea beach ran into problems yesterday when water started to fill the burial pits for the 25R, 10 tonne mammals at Cruden Bay, near Peterhead in Grampian. Donald Raymond, of Banff and Buchan district council's envi-ronmental health department, said that they were thinking of digging fresh graves. The mammals were discovered on Sunday.

### **BMA backs 'leak' curb**

THE British Medical Association yesterday backed a bill to bring in legal penalties for health staff who leak confidential informa-

tion about patients. Lord Walton of Detchant, former president of the BMA and the General Medical Council, is introducing a bill in the Lords to make it a statutory offence to disclose health information without the consent of the patient, except when public safety is threat-ened. — Chris Mihill

### Women's '£1 m damage' to jet

THREE women protesters caused damage of around £1 million to a Hawk jet trainer after breaking into a British Aerospace military aircraft factory, a court heard yesterday. Joanna Wilson, 32, Andrea Needham, 30, and Engla Kronlid, 27.

aderland where the body of David Hanson was found, and (right) the allotments where David Grieff's body was discovered MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: TOM Man 'killed youths to keep gay secret'

Crimes were undetected at first because method of strangling left no marks on bodies, says QC

the deaths of Thomas Kelly, 18, and David Hanson and David Grieff, both 15, who had all attended the same Martin Walnwright ADISM, and fear of revealing his homo-sexuality, prompted a comprehensive school in the

city. The youths' bodies were found in two burned-out allotyouths and stitempt to burn their bodies, a court heard ment huts and an empty teryesterday. Steven Grieveson, aged 25 and unemployed, initially got away with the killings, Leeds crown court was told, because race house on the city's sea-front, which had also been set ablaze, in the winter of 1993/ 94. Police were suspicious but post-mortems failed to es

his method of strangling left no obvious marks on his tablish the causes of death and pathologists "were not driven to conclude that three homicides had occurred".

John Milford QC, prosecut-ing, said that police suspicion about the deaths, in a three-Grieveson was interviewed after the deaths, which were month spell in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, led to a fresh examination by two of Britinitially associated with drug abuse, but the investigation which linked him to the ain's most eminent patholocrimes began seven months later. The

gists. Painstaking forensic work then linked Grieveson, who denies the murders, to pathologists had ed "concerned about

Thomas Kelly: 'meeting with Grieveson

the true cause of death and that it had not been truly ascertained". They held a meeting with Detective Superintendent Dave Wilson, who was leading the investigation, and second pathological opin-ions were commissioned. These established that

scarf, a strip of material,

John Carvel

**Education Edito** 



a belt had been used to strangle the youths, so rapidly that no signs of injury

stay as tribunal claim of 'no excuse' for student levy

man



three victims by circumstan tial evidence: a known meeting with Kelly and Grieff a few hours before their deaths, and a fingerprint on a win-dow in the burned-out house where Hanson's body was found. His DNA profile also emen found

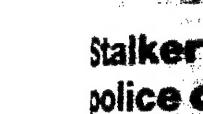
lose his composure and become fidgety with his eyes be-ginning to fill with tears". Mr Milford said that in the spring of 1994 Grieveson al-legedly told a prison cellmate that he had killed someone and set fire to the body after

which caused Grieveson to

Grieff was a practising or latent homoserual. He had been lured to the allotments by a promise of cannabis and then

forced to perform a sex act. Grievson had killed the youth, and the others, be-cause he had revealed his sexual nature to them and did not want anyone else to know. He had also enjoyed the process of murder and attempt-

ing to destroy the bodies. Grieveson had explained his traces at the burned terrace house by claiming to have burgled it with a companion. The victims' parents, Tommy and Judy Kelly, John and Sheila Hanson, and Janet Grieff and her partner Ray Gillston, were at the hearing.



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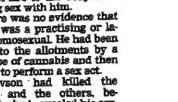
**David Grieff: DNA test** 'provided link'

Vice-chancellors angered by PM's

David Hanson: fingerprint clue at house

having sex with him. There was no evidence that

The Guardian Wednesday January 31 1996



aircraft in a hangar at Warton, Lancashire, Lytham magistrates were told. Hammers and other instruments had been used to damage the trainer jet, the court was told. The three were charged with damaging the aircraft and entering the factory with intent to cause damage.

Applications for bail were refused, and the women were remanded in custody until tomorrow. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

### Firms warned on RSI

COMPANIES must take prevention of repetitive strain injury (RSI) more seriously after a record £82,000 payout to a former

Kathleen Tovey, 48, from Redditch, Worcestershire, retired on medical grounds two years ago and is now 30 per cent disabled because of the injury. Her solicitor Richard Langton said the award proved the condition was genuine following recent speculation casting doubt on the existence of RSL

Consulting ergonomics expert Craig Simmons said he believed businesses would now have to take RSI prevention more seriously. "Employers will spend many hundreds of pounds upgrading an individual's computer terminal to improve productivity but balk at spending just a fraction of that on the human side."

### Student on murder charge

DETECTIVES last night charged a 19-year-old college student with the rape and murder of schoolgirl Claire Hood more than a year ago.

The man will appear before Cardiff magistrates court today. Claire, I, lived on the city's St Mellons housing estate. Her body was found by a passing cyclist in Cath-Cobb woods on January 19 last year.

### **TV** role for Hurd

FORMER foreign secretary Douglas Hurd is to turn television presenter for a four-part BBC documentary series examining attempts over the last two centuries to secure world peace.

The Search for Peace will trace attempts to create a new world order after the Napoleonic wars and the two world wars. —

**defies Howard** 

**Nigerians can** 

The tribunal's findings will **Erlend Clouston** be eagerly studied by the esti-mated 40,000 asylum-seekers in the United Kingdom. They LAWYER yesterday demanded that the Home Office reassess its view will be particularly interested in the adjudicator's accepof Nigeria's military regime tance that fear of being after an immigration tribunal

returned to unfriendly regimes can drive refugees allowed two appeals against deportation in defiance of into acts of deception which should not be allowed to dam-age their claim to asylum. government advice. Paul Seils, of the Scottish Refugee Council, which repre-In the case of Mr Adegboye.

sented the two Edinburgh-based asylum-seekers, said: who spent two years as a co-vert link between opposition parties and pro-democracy el-ements in the regime of Gen-eral Babangida, the adjudica-This shows that the Government has got it wrong about Nigeria; in fact after fact, the tor found that his delayed application for asylum and adjudicator found against the Home Office briefing paper." Appearing to undermine previous subterfuges were the crackdown by Michael linked to a legitimate dread of being deported. Last summer Mr Adegboye served three months in prison for possess-Howard, the Home Secretary, on allegedly bogus asylumseekers, the Glasgow tribunal granted Akinyemi Adegboye, ing a false passport.

a 36-year-old lecturer, refugee status despite a record which included a false passport, a false marriage and social se Despite the ferocious regime of Sani Abacha, which last month executed nine Ogoni activists including Ken Saro-Wiwa, Britain has only The tribunal also threw out sanctioned five out of the last 9,000 asylum applications

government claims that rela-tives of prodemocracy activ-ists face no danger in Nigeria. Giving Mr Adegboye's legiti-mate wife permission to stay, the adjudicator ruled that it from Nigerians. Mr Adegboye was helped by the testimony of Edward Abimbola, based in London, who confirmed that Chief was a "reasonable likelihood" Timothy Adegboye, the appel-that she would be persecuted lant's father, had been beaten by the police, who had al-ready killed her father-in-law. men searching for his son.

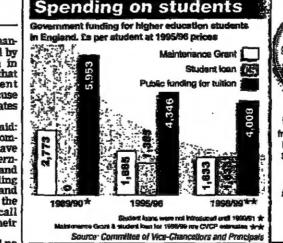
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NIVERSITY vice-chancellors were angered by John Major's claim in the Commons yesterday that increases in government funding left them no excuse for charging undergraduates a £300 registration levy. The Prime Minister said: They certainly cannot complain about how they have been treated by the Government. Between 1999/90 and 1994/95, university funding rose by 23 per cent over and above inflation. I hope the vice-chancellors will recall

that as they consider their future policy." The vice-chancellors had no quarrel with Mr Major's facts, but thought he gave a misleading impression by not

pointing out that universities increased student numbers under instruction from the Government — by 45 per cent over the same period. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said; "The real issue is that the resources for teaching each student have fallen by 25

per cent since 1969/90 because of the massive increase in student numbers. Universities welcome that increase in ac-cess, but will not deliver the second class tuition which would result from the



was announced by the com- Tory education minister, who mittee's executive on Monday | urged him to confirm that urged him to confirm that universities were in law pri-vate bodies and their finanin an attempt to pressure the Government to reverse a furcial relations with their stuther 12 per cent cut in their income per student over the next three years. If the 104 vice-chancellors support the plan on Friday, the levy will affect the 140,000 degree dents were for them to determine - and that the Government had no intention of nationalising universities. However, the Department course freshers in the 1997 acfor Education and Employment said the taxpayer is pro-viding more than £7 billion a year to support higher educa-tion, including student grants and loans. It "saw no need"

1997

further private finance in support of capital funding." Committee officials said there was strong support among vice-chancellors for the levy, but it would not go shead unless there was a decisive majority. Frank Gould, vice-chancel-

lor of the University of East London, said he would vote against. "Underfunding is a real problem for universities, £300 reshers levy but the burden of finding the introduced extra money should not be shifted to students."

Mick Harrison, vice-chancellor of Wolverhampton uni-versity, said the levy amounted to an attack on students. "The idea of even more fees runs contrary to our policy of access to university for all sections of the community." Sir Derek Fraser, vice chan-cellor of Teesside university, Middlesbrough, said: "There could easily be a 10 per cent

could easily be a 10 per cent drop in student numbers on the basis of top-up fees." The National Union of Stu-dents said: "Funding levels have reached crisis point, but we don't think the solution is

we don't think the solution is to go to the students and ask for cash they simply don't have." A £300 levy would be a large sum to pay from a grant worth only £1,710 next year. The Association of Univer-sity Teachers said the levy was "a stunnary next men

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welcome that increase in ac-cess, but will not deliver the second class tuition which would result from the planned cuts." A subtract of the levy The proposal for the levy The proposal for the levy Constraints on public fund-ing, the Government has en-the proposal for the levy couraged universities to seek

### A Special Announcement A Week on the Nile - 7 nights from £395 ravellers are flooding back to Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on board the MS Ra December 16,£395

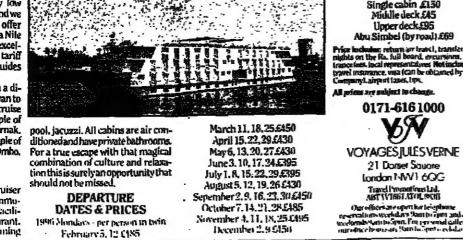
curity fraud.

Egypt but prices have not yet caught up with demand. Earlier this year we secured some extraordinarily low prices for a superior product and we can therefore continue to offer cruises on the first-class MS Ra Nile cruiser. The tour represents excellent value for money since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. The journey commences with a di-

rect flight from Gatwick to Aswan to ioin the MSRa. Ourweek-long cruis will include visits to the Temple of Edfu, Esna, the Temple of Karnak, the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Luxor, Kom Ombo, and the Aswan High Dam.

THE MS RA The MS Ra is a large Nile cruiser purpose built in Britain accommo-dating up to 140 passengers. Facili-ties on board include a restaurant. unge, har, sun deckwith swimming

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December 23, 30 £495	in Northern I
Single cabin £130 Middle deck£45 Upper deck£95 bu Simbel (by road)£69	Patrick Wintour and David Sharrock
bedien: return arr travel, travelers, 7 1 the Ra. full board, excursions, en- 16 deal representatives: Notinctuder, 16 arrance, was (Can be obtained by the 16 arranted to Can be obtained by the 18 arra subject to change.	OHN Major and SDLP leader John yesterday appeared draw back from confrom over the Northern In
0171-6161000	peace process after a 90 ute meeting from which emerged to say they

ţ.

committed to a comprehensive negotiated settlement. The SDLP sees the phrase. agreed with Downing Street, as a clear indication that Mr Major will not allow his plan for elections to lead to an internal settlement from which Dublin would be excluded.

Northern Ireland settlement meeting with Mr Hume after the nationalist leader had last week rejected the Prime Minister's decision to call for an elected body as a route to alld the party talks. Both SDLP and Hume red to Sinn Fein see the elections as likely to delay the planned February deadline for talks. They also fear that an elected ntation reland

0 minh both body would be controlled by a Unionist majority and exwere clude Dublin from negotiating a settlement. Mr Hume said later there

was "a process under way which we will pursue with the Prime Minister." He insisted that the February dead-line for the start of all-party Mr Major had called the the SDLP. The Unionists have ment was talking about "elec-

Major committed to Dublin role | refused to join talks with Sinn | tions to the talks process. We don't envisage an assembly don't envisage an assembly with legislative powers, adcommissioning arms. Although Mr Hume conceded that neither side had abandoned its previous position, the tone of his remarks suggested the SDLP felt the Major election proposal could

be adapted. Earlier, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, had also struggled to reassure the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, over the election plan. Sir Patrick insisted after-

wards that nationalists were wrong to fear the return of a Unionist-controlled assembly administering Northern Ire-land. "I wanted to make it clear that was quite the opposite of what the Government intended and envisaged," Sir talks had not been ditched by Patrick said. The Govern-

ministrative powers or execu-tive powers." Parties would be elected having passed an electoral test of commitment to a peaceful democratic "At the end certainly the body could be the first means by which an agreement, which by then hopefully

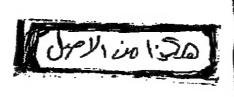
would have been reached, could be tested out for wide-spread acceptability." That was a matter for politicians.

Mr Adams said he remained opposed to elections but Sim Fein might stand and then boycott the body. He called on the Government to set aside all preconditions and get into all-party talks by the end of February.

Vernon Bogdanor, page 9

Leaders rule out confrontation

ademic year who do not qualify for full maintenance grants. Ministers would be told the charge would be lifted only if funding cuts were reversed

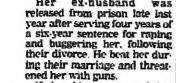


# **Mother in** fear defies court order on children

### Beatrix Campbell and Sarah Boseley

highlighted a legal loop hole, which might allow vio-lent men to track down the WOMAN who is in hiding because of wives they battered. Helena Kennedy, QC, said: death threats from husband could be jailed today Women develop antennae about the violent men they're for refusing to comply with an order to allow him contact dealing with. They know when they and their children are in with their children. danger. We have to listen to them."

Ms X, as she prefers to be known, may be held in contempt of court over the order made in Newcastle in December by Judge Crawford. Today's hearing is in front of the same circuit judge in court she will be in contempt. They will ask her for her address, and she will say no. Durham. Her ex-husband was



ing their marriage and threat-He is subject to a restraining order preventing him from go-ing within 500 yards of his for-

mer wife, but he has visited her previous address and social services offices looking for her since his release. Ms X has refused to give the man's lawyers the address of the children, two boys aged nine and seven, who live with her. She is afraid that if she allows her former husband to

talk to the boys, even in the

presence of two police officers and a court welfare officer as

Last time somebody left it on a legal document and her ex-husband came to find her." Although Ms X has remar ried and has a two-year-old child by her new husband, the former husband refuses to give up his claim to her, said Ms Wilkins. "He sent tapes and letters every day from prison. As far as he is concerned, she is his property to do with as he

Will." Ms X said she had not tried to cut her former husband out of her children's lives. "I'm not a mother who is saying the children are not allowed to talk about their father. I've kept photographs of him and cuttings of the stories that ap-peared in the newspapers for them to ponder over when

Young, chairwoman of New

castle Women's issues working group, was concerned that the

Joanne Wilkins, a friend of Ms X who is co-ordinating the campaign, is trying to set up a

support fund, since legal aid is about to run out. She said: "In

clues to her whereabouts or movements, such as the name of the boys' school. Women's groups and those involved with women's refuges and rape crisis centres in the

the order requires, he will get they're older." She agreed to his demands to see the children while he was in prison. But when he discovered - from the children - that she was having another North-east have offered sup-port to a growing campaign in visits and returned their defence of Ms X's stand. Sally letters.

# Stalker 'broke police camera'

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

have since been heavily criticised by women's groups for failing to provide adequate protection

After the publication of an AMBRIDGESHIRE police would not com-ment last night on sugartist's impression and a de-tailed description of the at-tacker, nearly 100 people con-tacted Cambridgeshire police gestions that a stalker who

### Former Beatle unveils performing arts institute at his old school, writes David Ward

# Message from Macca: All you need is fame

ame school of which he is patron — a ceremony dis-tinguished by the bright-ness of its lights, the volume of its music and the length of its speeches.

Are we talking royalty or Freddie Mercury here?

Ex-Beatle Paul plumped for Her Majesty, not least because she, like him, has made a personal donation to the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts whose first 200 students are now installed in the sumptu-ously refurbished school he and George Harrison once attended. The 18-year-olds will learn everything from stardom to being a roadie during their three-year legree cours

"People of my generation and the generations before bad a great awe for the Queen." reflected Mr McCariney. "Now a lot of that has been stripped away. There's the other side that people laugh at, but in the Queen's case I always think of her as a very sensible person. I'm very glad that she is coming in June for our offical opening." He diplomatically answered a question about

students and drugs, quoted Hamlet and hoped LIPA

songwriting. But if I ever do that, the first thing I'll say is, 'Look, I don't know

### Beatle's degree of success

By the time Paul McCariney was 18, he had: • Acquired his first guitar for £15 Met John Lennon Joined The Quarrymen
 Toured Scotland By the time he was 21, he Become a Beatle

would reach out to students in poor areas. He also pon-dered the mysteries of arlistic creation. "I'd love to try and talk to bunch of kids here about

> Signed up with Brian Epstein • Co-written Love Me Do • Co-written Please Please

Me and seen it go to numbe Toured Britain and Europe Seen debut album go to number one five weeks before his 21st birthday

McCartney with a inauguration cake model of the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

# Crumb cartoons cleared after 'preposterous' obscenity case

had:

The headline ought to be McCariney in Trib-ute to Queen, but that would only recreate the confusion momentarily felt by the world's press yester-day at the inanguration of Liverpool's £15 million Kame school of which he is

**BRITAIN 5** 

attended by the great and the good of the entertainment industry, including George Martin, producer of the Beatles albums, who de-scribed McCartney as a genius whose inspiration had led to LIPA.

Mr McCariney had been introduced by a film featur-ing his song Come On People: "We've got to get it right this time, we've got to

raise it to the sky." There was footage of the old Liverpool Institute grammar school, its labs and honour boards while angelic boys sang in Latin its motto: Not for ourselves but for the whole world were we born,

After the speeches, lozen students sang a stirring a cappella number, eminding parents that they can give their off-spring life but not their thoughts. Standing ova-tions followed.

Outside a loyal bunch of fans waited in the shadow of Liverpool's Anglican cathedral for their god. "Being here means every-thing to me," blushed Mon-ika Stache, whose English was so good she had to be German. She is training to

be an opera singer in Lon-don but had come north on an awayday. "My influences have been Verdi, Mozart and McCart

ney, but not necessarily in that order. Paul has given me so much without being aware of it. And LIPA is a wonderful project."

studentlew

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frontation

Secret

January 31 1996

by the police. The woman was provided with the video equipment after the stalker first attacked her outside her house near Huntingdon on December 17, after following her for several months. He then returned and

raped her on January 17. The second attack took place over two hours. "When [the December] attack was reported," a police spokesman said, "a camera was installed at her home as

part of a package. The mea-sures met with her law, which it says gives the police insufficient powers to act against stalkers at an agreement," Cambridgeshire police said early stage. Another cam-paign group, Women Against Rape, has called for an in-

on Monday that they were "comfortable" about the security arrangements, but they | quiry into the case.

# **QE2** chief goes

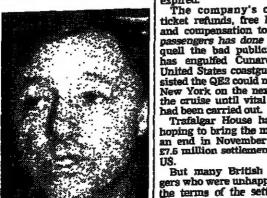
with £407,000

Gary Younge on the | parent company, Trafalgar Cunard executive year job last May following the disastrous cruise in Dewho took the blame cember 1994.

-and a lot of cash

Passengers who paid up to £29,000 to travel on the liner were forced to endure blocked lavatories and leaking cabins. Corridors in the ship were lit-HE former chairman of Cunard, who resigned after he took responsi-bility for an ill-fated Christtered with chicken wire as well as building debris. Other passengers were left behind at Southampton because their mas cruise caused by a bungled refit of the QE2. cabins were not yet ready. received a £407,000 pay-off from the company, it emerged Their inconvenience was due to £30 million worth of ncomplete refurbishment. The chief executive of Tra

yesterday. John Olsen received compensation of £232,000 for loss of office together with a year's salary of £163,000 as well as £12,000 in allowances and benefits, according to the annual report of Cunard's



raped a woman had also tampered with the video security yesterday. A spokeswoman equipment provided for her said some of the calls suggested who the man might be. All calls would be followed

The woman, who is in her thirties and married with children, was first accosted by the man last year. She con-tacted the police who provided her with the camera and various other security measures, believed to include

a panic button. The National Anti-Stalking and Harassment campaign (Nash) has been critical of the

Mr Olsen quit his 2508,000 a

A Crumb cartoon from his book My Troubles With Women

**Row over NHS targets** 

Health body aiming to remove patients to meet time guarantee

... AND OF

COURSE, THE ART OF

LOVE !!

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

HEALTH authority yes-terday admitted trying to remove patients from hospital waiting lists in order falgar House at the time said Mr Olsen was "taking responsibility' for the flasco and was being 'let go' two weeks before his rolling contract to meet a target of having no-body queueing for more than

The company's offer of 12 months by the end of March. ticket refunds, free holidays and compensation to all 600 Leeds health authority de-nied it was forcing people off the lists against their will. But a local orthopsedic surand compensation to all du passengers has done little to quell the bad publicity that has enguided Cunard since United States coastguards in-sisted the QE2 could not leave New York on the next leg of the cruise until vital repairs had been carried out. geon claims patients have been "removed" from his care. John Cruickshank, a spinal

specialist at Leeds general in-firmary, has said in a letter to Trafalgar House had been hoping to bring the matter to an end in November with a 57.5 million settlement in the patients; "I do not regard this as satisfactory, but I am told that this is how the health service is to run."

The authority's action But many British passes reflects pressure on the NHS throughout England to clear gers who were unhappy about the terms of the settlement, lodged another claim in a all waiting lists longer than 12 British court. They also months.

the health regions are work-

ing to achieve it by the end of March and all but one — North Thames — have said they think they can do so. Task forces have been set up in some areas, extra cash has been allocated by some

operations. Mr Cruickshank says in his

weeks. "I have now been in-formed that, for administrative reasons, Leeds health au-thority have removed your care from me."

Advising the patient to consult her general practitioner, he tells her: "I would emphasise that I am very happy to continue treating you if I am

situation. Geoff Lake, the authority's

director of quality perfor-John Olsen: quit after QE2's served a writ on Cunard at Ministers have not declared mance, said there was a need a questionnaire in such a formal target, but all to meet the regional target of Standard magazine,

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

HE work of Robert Crumb, one of Ameri-ca's most celebrated carcleared of all charges of ob-scenity and passed for sale in the United Kingdom.

In a decision welcomed by comic booksellers and law-yers, Uxbridge magistrates in west London ruled that two frames from an 80-page comic book, My Troubles with Women, were not obscene and the book could therefore be sold in this country. Three other adult comic books were

also cleared for importation. Costs of 56,000, seen as remarkably high for a one-day hearing, were awarded to the distributors and importers of the books, Knockabout Comics of west London.

"This is a very good day for underground comics," said Tony Bennett of Knockabout after the verdict. "Tm absolutely delighted."

a maximum 12-month wait. In conjunction with the United

Leeds Teaching Hospitals trust, which included the general infirmary, cases were being identified where treatment was unlikely before March 31 and where the guar-antee would as a result he broken.

In such cases — "about 20-30 at the end of the day" — the patients and GPs were being approached about alterna-tives including treatment elsewhere or dropping off the waiting list for the time being. Patients could if they

wished remain on the list. Mr Lake insisted. "It is absolutely not true to say that pa-tients have been removed from consultants' lists." A spokeswoman for the United Leeds trust said Mr Cruickshank was expressing a percent view about no

a personal view about pa-tients "removed by the health authority". Seven in 10 nurses believe

permitted to and that I am not at all happy with this provide adequate patient care and one in five says they are "dangerously" low, according to analysis of 400 responses to a questionnaire in Nursing

The decision came after a his wife and fellow cartoonist about's solicitor. Bill Nash day-long hearing before three Aline Kominsky. Some seid: "It amazes me that, in Aline Kominsky. Some stories in My Troubles with Women feature both Crumbs, lay magistrates, two male and one female, after an action brought by Customs and Ex-cise under the 1876 Customs each drawing themselves.

Consolidation Act. Customs had claimed that the book, and two Zap Comics and the Twisted Sisters, should not be sold here. Knockabout argued that the books were neither porno-graphic nor obscene, and were widely regarded as William Thompson, of the works of art. Crumb - the creator of car-

Crumb — the creator of car-toon characters Fritz the Cat and Mr Natural — was the subject of a well-received eponymous documentary film, directed by Terry Zwi-goff, which came out last year. He has enjoyed cult status in the United States and Europe since the 1960s and now lives in France with

said: "It amazes me that, in this day and age, art books like this are being seized. It's a very good result." Mr Bennett said the seizure

Paul Gravett, administrator of the Cartoon Art Trust, of the books had cost his firm whose president is the Duke of Edinburgh, told the court that Crumb's work was in the tradition of Hogarth and Row-£35,000 to £40,000 in lost prof-its. He would not be suing Customs, he said, but hoped that the "climate can now landson and that he was one return to normal. It is a very of the most important car-toonists of the last 25 years. important decision." My Troubles with Women

had previously been sold without any problems in Brit-ain after it was first published here in 1990. A fresh importation of the book in 1995 was setzed.

criminology department of Reading university, and an expert in obscenity laws, also defended Crumb's work, say-ing he used it in his lectures. Counsel for Knockabout, Counsel for Knockabout, Geoffrey Robertson QC, a vet-eran of obscenity trials in-volving underground literature, said the action had been "preposterous". After the verdict, Knock- comment last night.

Previously Customs officers had accepted that the comics should not be classi-fied as obscene, but last year this policy suddenly chang Customs and Excise had no

# C&G Mortgage Rate Change Notice to borrowers

Under the terms of our Mortgage Price Promise, C&G mortgage rates are being reduced from 1 February 1996.

February's reduction is 0.15% per annum and applies to all C&G variable base rates except base rates 179, 180, 181, 182, 183 and 184 which already benefit from lower rates.

Details of this change have been sent to customers who require written notice under the terms of their mortgage.

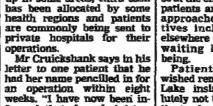
For loans in our Annual Instalment Review scheme, the change will be reflected in payments from March 1997.

This rate change does not apply to mortgages with a fixed or capped interest rate.

Our Mortgage Price Promise means that we will review our rates again on 15 February 1996.



Cheltenham & Gloucester plc Barnett Way Gloucester GL4 3RL



## **6 WORLD NEWS**

# War of nerves between Beijing and Taipei grows **China defies world** on nuclear tests

## Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

HINA stood alone against the world yesterday, vowing to press on with underground nuclear blasts in defiance of a test moratorium em-braced by Russia, the United States. Britain and, after six tests in the South Pacific, France.

Nuclear weapons, once mocked by Mao Zedong as a "paper tiger", are cherished by the Communist Party lead-ership in Beijing as a potent course of leverage over Taisource of leverage over Taiwan and a vehicle for China's superpower ambitions. foreign ministry state-

US.

ment yesterday announcing China's continued commitment to underground tests co-incided with a warning by Li Peng, the prime minister, that Beijing would use force to block any move by Taiwan towards formal independence. "There is only one China in

sure from the US. the world and Taiwan is an inalienable part of it." Mr Li told a rally in the Great Hall of the People overlooking Tiananmen Square. The speech, marking the first anniversary of stillborn supports the idea of a compre-

first anniversary of stillborn reunification proposals by President Jiang Zemin, was closely scrutinised by diplomats and military experts | tional law.

"The position of the Chines after reports that the People's Liberation Army had com-pleted contingency plans for remment on nuclear testing is clear-cut and remains unchanged," said Chen Jian, the foreign ministry spokes-man. "China has conducted a limited military action

China exploded its first nu-clear device in 1964 in the de-sert at Lop Nor, in the far west very limited number of nuclear tests and things will con-

region of Xinjiang. It argues that it should be allowed to tinue to be that way:" China has declined to com ment on reports that it could unleash a missile attack on catch up with more advanced Western nuclear powers. Beijing has conducted 42 tests, only three fewer than Taiwan, firing one rocket a day for 30 days after the Britain but a tiny fraction of island holds presidential elec-

tions in March. This is Taiwan's 'first the 1,030 carried out by the The conventional military chance to elect a president; a reform that completes its balance between China and transition from family despo-tism to democracy, but China sees it as an attempt to en-trench a separate political Taiwan is considered fairly even, despite the mainland's 3 million-strong army. But China's possession of nuclear weapons gives it the edge in identity.

In a sign of heightened ten-sion, China voiced concern yesterday about the recent pas-sage through the Taiwan strait an escalating war of nerves. Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade prov-ince, flirted with nuclear capability in the 1970s and early of the Nimitz, a nuclear-1960s, but closed a plutonium separation plant under prespowered US aircraft carrier, and four escort ships. It was the first voyage through the 100-mile strip of sea separating Taiwan from the mainland

China is expected to carry out two or three nuclear tests since 1979, when Washington set up an embassy in Beijing and scrapped a defence treaty with Taipel.

Taiwan's stock market plummeted earlier this week on predictions that Mr Li's bensive test ban, but says it will only abide by such a pact when it becomes internaspeech would spell out a time table for reunification.

# Envoy's home attacked

### Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

UNMEN in the Bangla-deshi capital Dhaka fired at the residence of Britain's deputy high comaid donors.

Diplomats and police said a guard was injured in the early morning attack, in which six

The High Commission said a live bomb had later been discovered at the house.

Campaigning began a week ago for the February 15 election, prompting fears of esca-lating violence after 22 months of home-made bomb attacks and protest strikes. ] called on all parties "to avoid

in the right of voters to exertorched a police vehicle and

threw stones at passing cars. The main opposition par-ties are boycotting plans by the governing Bangladesh Na-tionalist Party (BNP) to hold elections. The main chal-langer Sheikh Bading Wesel

lies have accused foreign do-nors, particularly the United States and Britain, of prop-ping up Begum Khaleda Zia's government and urged them to stop supporting the elec-The opposition has de-manded that Begum Khaleda step down and hand over power to a caretaker adminis-tration, saying the govern-ment cannot be trusted to

dictatorships, whereas her government was elected democratically in 1991.



Surprise find . . Egyptian workers yesterday uncovered the 2,660-year-old coffin and skeleton of a child on the site of a partiy built museum at Saggara, south of Cairo. The building is being removed because it is on a cemetery and mars the view of Djoser's step pyrainid, thought to be the oldest stone building of its size Photochief Motive EL-Davidskiny.

The Guardian Wednesday January 31 1996

# Bandits prefer it with chips

Jonathan Preedla in Washington

IKE highwaymen of the electronic age, i new breed of outlaws is terrorising computer tycoons, mounting stick-up raids, not for money but microchips.

They have staged more than 50 hi-tech holdups in the last year, ambushing executives of some of Sili-con Valley's leading com-

Puter companies. Hitherto concern about computer crime has centred on hackers breaking into sensitive corporate and even military systems, either for profit or for the sheer thrill of playing havoc. Now old-fashioned robbery is taking over.

Isast week Paul Heng. owner of Unigen Corp. a computer component firm in Fremont, California, faced down two armed men who ponnced on his car as he was leaving home — apparently an attempt to seize valuable technology. Mr Heng eluded the stick-up artists, driving off as bullets sped past his car. But police believe he was the latest victim of a Cali-fornia crime wave.

fornia crime wave. Last month another Fre-mont computer boss was kidnapped on his way home, forced back to his business, and robbed.

The thieves have turned violent chiefly because of the high return on stolen computer parts. Microprocessors and memory chips are most in demand, each one costing hundreds of dollars but weighing less

than a penny. Lest Thursday the owner of Microland Electronics in San José was shutting up san Jose was shiring up shop when he was am-bushed by two gunnen who tied him up and plundered his supplies. It is estimated that up to \$50 million (£38 million)

has been taken in stick-ups, but that is a more fraction of the \$8 billion the indus-try loses annually by theft and employee "skimming". Meanwhile Kevin Mit-nick the master backer ar

nick, the master hacker ar-rested by the PBI last year, is in the news again. Three books appeared this week telling of Mr Mitnick's battle with the super-sleuth

Tsutomu Shimomura. A film deal has already been signed.

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# Riot police were called to an election meeting in Dhaka at

missioner yesterday, an ap-parent sign that growing pub-lic frustration before next month's elections could be has held "anti-election" camredirected towards foreign paign meetings and said her Awami League will resist the

shots were fired at the home of Miss M. R. McIntosh.

tion plan.

violence, to avoid intimida-tion, coercion or interference the weekend after youths

cise their rights to vote". But in nearly a sixth of the constituencies that will not be necessary. Already, 47 BNP candidates, including Begum. Rhaleda, have been returned

The 22-month stand-off be-tween the two women — exac-erbated by personal enmity between the beirs to rival po-litical traditions — focuses on

"farcical vote". Sheikh Hasina and her althe conduct of the elections. hold a fair vote. Begun Kha-leda argues that caretaker regimes are a relic of military

On Monday the US state de-partment called on Banglade-shis to allow free elections. Its spokesman Nicholas Burns



## Setting the standards in personal computing.



Contendo, Gente and Viplen are understarks of Viglen Livited. Hisrosoft, MS-DOS, Windows 95 and the Macrosoft Really to Run logo are the The level locate loss and Pentam are understarks of basi Constration. All other grademarks are achieved admini-

# **Drug lords 'implicate Samper'**

### Frank Bajak in Bogotá

**COMMUNIQUE** believed to be from the jailed biggest cocaine cartel claims that they gave President Er-nesto Samper of Colombia mil-lions of dollars during his 1994

election campaign. The two-page statement received by the newspaper El Tiempo on Monday could spur efforts to force Mr Samper's removal. There are indica-Lending credibility to the communiquê, a judicial source said on Monday that the jailed leaders of the Cali tions that he is considering a deal which would allow him to resign but avoid prosecution. That would need a pardon from congress, many of whose members, also accused of ac-

members, also accused of ac-cepting drug money from the Cali cartel, would be likely to insist on being included in a blanket amnesty, said a lead-ing opposition senator, Eduardo Pizano. Congress was due to hold a special session yesterday to debate the crisis and accusa-transformation for the second secon

James McKinley in Nairobi reports on

tions against the president. | Mr Samper has insisted that | he will leave office only "with my head held high, or dead". But political and judicial sources say he is seeking a way to step down while guar-anteeing that Liberal Party loyalists remain in power. authentic.

He has been under intense pressure to resign since last week, when his former cam-Botero]. paign manager, Fernando Botero, said the president had known all along drug money helped to put him in office.

cartel, Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, had of-

The prosecutor-general's | Monday after fleeing Colom-office said yesterday it had | bia because of death threats. not received the letter, and Mr Samper's lawyer, Antodid not know if it was authennio José Cancino, resigned on tic. El Tiempo believes it is Monday - also because of death threats.

It reads: "Because we have been threatened with extradi-tion in order to keep us quiet behind bars, we have decided On Sunday Felipe López, the former chief federal pros-ecutor in Cali, was killed in a

Bogotá street. If Mr Samper fails to secure a resignation deal, the federal to follow the example [of Mr "We want to help save the prosecutor, Alfonso Valdination and all the citizens who are being deceived ..." vieso, is likely to ask congress to open a new investigation into the president, said the Colombian law bars the ex-tradition of its nationals to judicial source.

stand trial abroad. The Rodriguez brothers fear being pros-ecuted in the United States, Mr Samper's removal, but Mr Valdivleso is expected to where the authorities would like them jailed for life. present a stronger case.

When he was arrested in August, Miguel Rodriguez denied that he had given money to Mr Samper's campaign. César Gaviria, said on Monday that the case should go Many prominent figures fear for their lives. Andres directly to the senate.

Pastrana, who narrowly lost If the senate recommends the 1994 election to Mr prosecution, Mr Samper must Samper, was in Miami on resign. - AP.

In December a congressio-nal committee said there was insufficient evidence to seek Two former presidents. Al-fonso López Michelsen and

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warped spending priorities that benefit politicians but damage public interest

week for talks with other east African leaders, he travelled travelled: in a new private jet bought by taxpayers' money last month ardised aid from the Internafor about £33.5 million.

As the plane took off, it banked over the potholed road from Nairobi to Mombasa, Kenya's main port.

Some opposition leaders and diplomats say the plane and the road illustrate what is wrong with the government's economic priorities: a longstanding tendency among politicians to let personal pres-tige outweigh public interest. When Mr Moi bought the plane, a Dutch-made Fokker, allow the IMF to release hun-dreds of millions of dollars in his government was seeking a \$50 million low interest loan from the World Bank to blocked aid.

The stakes are high for Ke-nya. At risk are \$200 million repair the road. Newspapers revealed the purchase of the plane in November and govin direct aid from the IMF ernment officials have argued and nearly \$166 million in since then that the expense loans from the World Bank was justified because Mr Mol for roads and other projects

HEN President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya flew to Uganda last uled service every time he The plane is one of several expenditures not listed in Kenya's budget which have jeop-

tional Monetary Fund, the World Bank and donor countries, diplomats and offi-The population is cials at international develop-

ment banks said. They said the private plane and two other costly projects were mentioned at talks this growing faster than the economy month between the govern-ment and a joint mission from the World Bank and the IMF. so Kenyans are getting poorer The two sides are trying to hammer out a plan for economic reform that would say the main sticking points

Private jet jeopardises aid to Kenya

have been the government's inability to stamp out corrup-tion and the kind of prestige spending typified by the president's new plane.

The government is also spending about \$35 million to. Jyans, with an average annual build an international airport at Eldoret, the heart of Mr poorer. — New York Times.

The talks are being watched by Western countries, includ-ing the United States, and sev-eral have said the IMF's deet. Build for the project - the special debt service fund in special debt service fund in this year's budget. It was also hidden from World Bank sion will be a yardstick for them. Only a fraction of the \$300 million promised by do-nor countries in November 1994 has been disbursed, be-cause of the stalled negotiaauditors scrutinising the budget, until a newspaper The government says the airport is needed because of an economic boom in the tions, diplomats said. Neither the IMF nor the World Bank

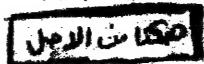
would comment on the talks. area Sources close to the talks

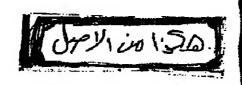
- Ironically, the controversies ovar the airport and the pri-vate plane came to light as the economy started to improve,

The government suspended high-ranking port officials on corruption charges earlier this month. Urged by the IMF, it has also eliminated import licences, squeezed the money supply and liberalised trade. As a result, interest rates are down and the economy grew by 5 per cent in 105

grew by 5 per cent in 1995, after several years of stagna-tion. Inflation, which hit 100 per cent in 1993, stayed be-low 7 per cent last year.

But local economists say the population is growing faster than the economy. So Keincome of \$1,200, are getting





News in brief

## **German scam blows** MI6 agent's cover

THE COVER of a female MI6 agent has been blown in the aftermath of an operation that led to one of her contacts in German intelligence being suspended for alleged corruption. Rosemary Sharpe, who worked in the British mission in Berlin. paid more than £20,000 to the German agent for "Sovmat" spy language for Soviet material. Sovmat in this case was

equipment belonging to Russian forces in east Germany. Her contact, code-named "Haescher", was one of three members of the BND. Germany's equivalent of MI6, assigned to buy Soviet weaponry from disaffected Russian soldiers. The three are under investigation after allegations that they personally efited from the operation.

When suspicions were aroused by another BND agent who heard about the alleged scam, Haescher was followed last October by undercover German police to a meeting with Ms Sharpe at a Munich hotel. He is understood to have offered her the material, including documents, for cash, The three BND agents also allegedly sold material to the United States. The German authorities insist that MI6 did no wrong and that Ms Sharpe acted in good faith. British sources say MI6 got

what it paid for. To the embarrassment of MI6, Ms Sharpe, who has since returned to Britain, was named in the latest issue of the German magazine Der Spiegel. — Richard Norton-Taylor.

### High-security jail for child

A BOY of 12 who killed a five-year-old boy when he dropped him from the top of a 14-storey building because he refused to steal sweets became the youngest inmate of an American high security prison this week. A Chicago judge agreed on Monday to a request from the state of Illinois's social services department for the boy and his 13-year-old accomplice to be transferred to a juvenile penitentiary because they were "unrepentant" and "dangerous to others".

The conviction of the two boys — aged 10 and 11 respectively when the crime was committed — for the murder of Eric Morse triggered a national debate over how child murderers should be punished. They were sentenced to remain in state custody for at least five years and have been held in a detention centre run by the Illinois department of children and family services. Under juvenile law, they must be released at 21. — *Ian Katz, New York*.

### Surgeon fuels blood row

AN ISRAELI heart surgeon, adding to the controversy on blood banks discarding donations from Ethiopians Jows, said he would avoid operating on Ethiopians for fear of catching Aids. Danny Gur said critics of the policy were "outrageous loudmouths". "I get pricked in operations. The danger is tremendous. I am airaid,

he said on a television chat show on Monday night. As the row deepened yesterday, Yitzhak Navon, a former president, was appointed to head an inquiry into the treatment of the angry Ethiopian community. Mr Navon, a Sephardic Jew, was Israel's first president of non-European descent. He held office from 1978 and 1983 and won widespread respect among the country's diverse communities. — Reuter, Jerusalem.

### UN tribunal staff beaten

THE United Nations tribunal investigating genocide in Rwanda has protested to the authorities in Kigali after three of its investihas processed to the authornies in regard and a test to its thread in test gators were beaten by Rwandan army soldiers, the prosecutor Richard Goldstone's office said yesterday. The assault happened in the Rwandan capital on Monday. The motive was unclear, but it did not appear to be directed against the tribunal or its work, his said in a statement.

"The investigators, including a female member of staff, were beaten and struck with rifle butts. While they were badly bruised, fortunately they were not seriously injured." it said. Honoré Rekotomanama, Mr Goldstone's deputy, had personally proteste to the Rwandan authorities, the statement said.

The Rwanda tribunal is based in Arusha, Tanzania, but shares its chief prosecutor and five of its 11 judges with the UN tribunal for former Yugoslavia in The Hague. — Reuter, The Hague.

### \$2bn lost to too many se

# **Orchestral symbols clash**

A discordant note sours German relations | ing their conflict ended in | deadlock. with the Czechs, despite efforts to forge new links lan Traynor reports from Bonn

> DISCORDANT na- | bours, now at their worst tionalist spat in the | since the collapse of commuorchestra pits of Prague rose to a Gerd Albrecht, the Gerd Albrecht, the

day when Gerd Albrecht, the only German ever to be chief conductor of the Czech allow Bonn and Prague to put their differences behind them Philharmonic, offered his resignation, alleging a cam-paign of persecution, Czech "chauvinism", and political in the new Europe. But the rancour generated Interference.

tition of what was Czechoslo-Although the affair centres vakia, and Czech revenge at the end of the war - has on money, power, and record-ing contracts, the row be-tween the German and his proven immune to years of efforts to forge a common Czech patrons has inevitably come to symbolise the sour German-Czech declaration. Two weeks ago their for-

state of relations between the two central European neigh-

Germany's row with the Czechs is the single biggest unresolved issue deriving

from the Nazi era. Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia and annexed the Sudetenland, home to 3 million Germans. They welcomed the Nazi take-over. Six months later the Third Reich occupied the en-tire country, carving it into a puppet fascist Slovak state and a Bohemian protectorate.

The Czechs took their revenge in 1945-6, expropriating and expelling up to 3 mil-lion Germans. Tens of thousands were killed.

Bonn refuses to agree rep-aration to Czech victims of Nazism until the Sudeten German problem is settled. It insists that the wording used in the declaration must coneign ministers' attempt to demn the "expulsion" of the finalise the statement resolv- Sudeten Germans.

Prague accuses the Ger-mands of making fresh de-mands, fears a rush of prop-erty claims by families of the dispossessed, and prefers to refer to the deportations as "forced emigration". The prague accuses the Ger-dency. But he, too, insists that the Benes decrees there can-not be retroactively res-cinded, because that could bring thousands of German The treatment of the ex-

pelled Germans was endorsed by the Allied powers at the Potsdam conference and ordered in decrees by President Eduard Benes of Czechoslova kia in 1945. Last year, when a Sudetan

German brought a test case to reclaim family property lost in 1945, the Czech constitutional court upheld the validity of the Benes decrees, provoking the

outraged German response that Prague was condoning "ethnic cleansing". The result is anti-German sentiment among Czechs and resentment of perceived bul-

lying by Bonn. President Havel apologised that support.

property claims.

His apology did not endear the president to his fellow Czechs and in a snub to Mr Albrecht, Mr Havel failed to attend the orchestra's 100th anniversary concert last year. Mr Albrecht denounced his decision in an open letter.

The Czechs go to the polls in May and any concession to the Germans would be a clear vote loser. The Sudeten Ger-mans for their part are a highly vocal lobby inside Ba-varia's ruling Christian Social Union, Mr Kohl's coali-tion ally. Mr Kohl, defending a slim 10-seat majority in parliament, is wary of alienating



**WORLD NEWS 7** 

Gerd Albrecht: alleges campaign of persecution

# Police fail to calm fears

HE Serbs of Ilidza have come to the conclusion

that if the local United Nations police station is any measure of the world's com-mitment to a multi-ethnic Sarajevo, it is time to pack their bags.

Four days before Serb sub-urbs like llidza are formally handed over to the Bosnian covernment, there were only four UN officers on duty in a converted restaurant to monitor one of the most sensitive districts in the country.

About a third of the 70,000population of Serb-held Sarajevo has already left and most of the rest are packing their bags - fearful or resentful of the prospect of being ruled by Muslims and Croats as part of the Bosnian

Near the Ilidza police station, about 1,500 Serb fam-



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THE MOST secret arm of United States Intelligence maintained such intense internal security that it lost \$2 billion (£1,368 billion) in various contingency funds without even knowing the money had gone. Congressional investigators reported yesterday. The money, which was mostly recovered after a huge audit by a special team of accountants recruited by the CIA and given special security clearances, will be used to pay for the US peace-

keeping mission in Bosnia and for new B-2 bombers. The National Recomaissance Office (NRO), founded in 1960 to build and run US spy satellites with an annual budget estimated at more than \$6 billion, was so secret that its existence was denied until 1992. Known as "black projects", because the spy satellites were so secret that Congress agreed to waive its usual supervi-sory rules, the NRO's operations became the most productive and reliable arm of US intelligence. Each year Congress voted special funds for possible emergen-

cies, like the need to buy a new satellite when one was lost on cies, like the need to buy a new satellite when one was lost on launching. Unspent funds were squirrelled away in top-secret accounts by different NRO offices, each kept secret from one snother, and the NRO steadily lost track of the money. Within the intelligence world, the affair is seen as an empire-building coup by John Deutch, director of the CIA. Having launched the hunt for the missing money, found it, and returned it to a government and Congress engaged in desperate cost-

cotting, he is now expected to get his reward with a far wider authority over the sprawling intelligence empire. — Martin Walker, Washington.

### **Chrétien raises the stakes**

CANADA'S prime minister, Jean Chrötien, has raised the stakes in Quebec's fight for independence. As Lucien Bouchard, the leading separatist, was sworn in on Monday as the province's new premier, Mr Chrétien endorsed the concept of partition. "If Canada is divisible, Quebec is divisible too," he said. "The logic of

secession is the same logic." It is a possibility the federal government has long avoided talking about, because it argues that Canada should not be split up. But Othawa is determined to take the initiative in the battle for national unity. Although Mr Bouchard did not dwell on Quebec independence when he was sworn in —giving no indication of when he will call another referendum — he voiced his continued resolution when he took over as leader two days earlier.

"We are a people, we are a nation. And as a nation we have a fundamental right to keep and maintain our territory," he said. "Canada is divisible because Canada is not a real country. There are two people, two nations and two territories. This one is ours." - Claire Treveno, Toronto.

### Alaska chills Dole's chances

THE already clouded prospects of Senator Robert Dole, the front-THE already clouded prospects of Senator Robert Dole, the front-runner in the race among Republicans to secure the party candi-dacy for the United States presidential elections, worsened yester-day as the rightwing populist Pat Buchanan won a straw poll among party supporters in Alaska with 35 per cent of the vote. Steve Forbes, the multi-millionaire political novice, came second with 31 per cent, and Mr Dole trailed in third place with 17 per cent. Although the poll was not binding, the verdict in Alaska reflected other opinion polls in the important primary states. In New Hampshire, polls now put Mr Dole second behind Mr Forbes. — Martin Walker, Washington.

I was in the same class as Tony Blair in the mid-slxties. We were at a private, selective prep school, which promoted 'high filers' ahead of their year group.



ΰ.

removing windows and doorframes yesterday in prepara-tion for an organised exodus. Today an advance party of 40 workers is due to set off for their new home near the Serb-held town of Visegrad, where they will start building in an open field.

Asked whether the gradual arrival of the UN police force might lead them to reconsider, one of a group of grim-faced men stacking window frames swept his arm across a deserted common and asked Where are they now? The deployment of police monitors in the area had been intended to assuage Serb fears by providing a guaran-tee of even-handedness and

human rights. But Warrant-Officer Jean-Yves Pain, a policeman from Brittany, France, conceded that this was an ambitious task for four men. There are supposed to be

15-20 policemen here, but only seven have arrived so far .... and three of those are on holi-

day," he said. At Dayton, Ohio, where the peace deal was reached, it was agreed that Nato troops alone could not defuse Bos-nia's murderous ethnic ten-sions. For the restoration of the rule of law, it would be in the wrong way."

The UN police station's able to move federal forces in pursued the policy of ethnic | louts and sent them home in present complement includes until March 20. essential for international present complement includes three Freechmen, two Danes, and two Portuguese officers. civilian police to provide training and monitoring. Contributing states promised to send more than 1,700 Yesterday their commande police officers to Bosnia. So far, fewer than 200 have ar-rived. Of the 500 due to take was one of those on leave. Their job is to carry out foot patrols and joint vehicle patup positions in Serb-held Sarols with the local Serb police. rajevo, about 40 are in place. "Countries do need their WO Pain said that joint pat vortain said that joint par-rols had recently been cur-tailed — although relations with the Ilidza police were apparently excellent — be-cause of the Serbs' lack of fuel. Stocks are being memory of fuel final condus countries do need their policemen and they don't let them go easily," said Alexan-der Ivanko, the UN spokes-man in Sarajevo. He was bopeful that more would ar-vine but the and of the more reserved for the final exodus. According to the peace

ponsible for law and order.

In the meantime, under an agreement brokered this week by Carl Bildt, the inter-national community's High Representative in Bosnia, local Serb police will be res-

After March 20 federal police will take over. They are meant to "reflect the ethnic composition of the population in the areas they will serve". It is hopeful talk, but it conceals a catch. Many Serbs will stay on in Sarajevo only

thusiasm as the army. Ilidza's police have privately told their UN counterparts that they are about to leave. Nato's peace implementation force (I-FOR) has sworn that it will not fall victim to so-called "mission creep" by

becoming involved in day-to-day policing. But with the bulk of the UN force yet to arrive, and in the increasing absence of local officers, it almost certainly will. I-FOR soldiers have already

base in Ilidza said they had no knowledge of the incident — but added privately that they hoped the story was true. • A man was killed and another man and four children were seriously injured in three separate explosions in Sarajevo yesterday, hospital workers and relatives said. The man who died stepped on a mine in the city's Moj-

Spokesmen at the I-FOR

milo Brdo area. The other man lost a leg after treading on a mine while walking his dog in the Nahorevo district. According to the peace if there is a predominantly intervened several times to on a mine while walking his treaty, the government will Serb police force. But the deal with rowdy Serbs Ilida of the Nahorevo district. The boys were injured in Do-and other Serb suburbs on last to volunteer to stay on. Saturday, but it will not be Throughout the war, they armed a group of uniformed ploded. — Reuter.

# Local treaties undermine Moscow's authority

Russia's power-sharing deals with border regions are designed to secure electoral support, writes James Meek

The four treaties mark a dramatic departure for Mr Yeltsin's administration, HE rulers of two of Russia's border regions entered the power vac-uum left by Moscow's ineffecwhich had previously struck agreements only with the fed-eration's 21 ethnically-based tual governance yesterday, signing treaties with the Kremlin which cast further autonomous republics. Such doubt on who really controls the sprawling federation. deals were meant to appease separatist sentiments in places like Tatarstan, which at one stage looked likely to Drought-stricken Orenburg, bordering the Central Asian superstate of Kazakh-stan, and Krasnodar on the become another Chechenia This special treatment infu-

edge of the North Caucasus, became the third and fourth riated the "regular" Russian regions which, led by Mr Ros-

tax terms, even proclaiming a "Urals Republic" before Boris



and the regions on top of the bewildering variety which al-ready exists. The Moscow city authori-ties effectively operate their own visa system, in defiance of the constitution, as does the diamond region of Yaku-tia. North Ossetia has its own army. Vladivostok responds to signals from the federal government as the mood government as the mood takes it. Tatarstan claims the

mous republic of Kahnykia, the president, Kirsan Ilyumz-hinov, recently organised his own re-election: a move gen-erally recognised as illegal. He is still in place. The federal government's

inability to pay salaries on time, to protect its people against military attacks like the raids on Kiziyar and Budyonnovsk, and to provide energy - large areas of Russia are subject to regular black-Mr Solzhenitsyn claims this could be achieved without outs — has exposed Moscow's rule to derision and encour-aged support for local leaders. Vladimir Yelagin, governor

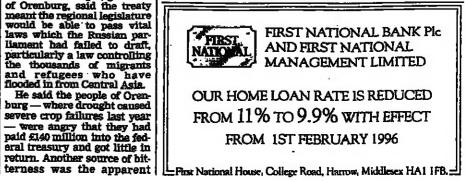
of Orenburg, said the treaty meant the regional legislature would be able to pass vital laws which the Russian par-liament had failed to draft, particularly a law controlling the thousands of migrants and refugees who have flooded in from Central Asia.

He said the people of Oren-burg — where drought caused severe crop failures last year — were angry that they had paid £140 million into the fed-eral treasury and got little in return. Another source of bit-

right to prevent its conscripts | prosperity of the neighbour-from fighting fellow-Muslims. | ing autonomous republic of | nomic control are so inter-ing autonomous republic of | nomic control are so inter-twined that republic status has a power-sharing treaty. Russian nationalists from Vladimir Zhirinovsky to Al-exander Solzhenitsyn have the treaty system as a means

urged the abolition of the whole Stalin-inspired system of republics, regions, districts and special cities in favour of Kaliningrad's need for

a single territorial entity like a US state, German Lande or - Zhirinovsky's model – the imperial Russian guberniya. prime minister, Victor Cher-nomyrdin, was born and harming the languages and Krasnodar is the old haunt of cultures of the ethnic repub-lics, but in many of these ter-lics and the ethnic repub-



became the third and fourth regions this year to cut sepa-rate deels with the Kremlin for the division of powers. They were following the trail blazed by Eduard Rossel, governor of the Urals region of Sverdlovsk, who fought for years for preferential federal regioners, arean proclaming a sel, began to demand their own treaties. Instead of giving all the regions the same degree of self-determination, Moscow appears intent on handing out tailored packages of privileges and powers to each in turn. At the signing ceremony with the Krasnodar governor

"Urais Republic" before Boris Yaltsin granted his wish this month. Kaliningrad, the detached Russian enclave squeezed be-tween Poland and Lithuania, secured the second such deal.

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In fact, the effect seems to be the opposite — to add four new kinds of relationship between the federal government and the regions on top of the

Edition Number 46,463 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER Fax No. 0171-837 4530 E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk

# A triple whammy

Lies, damned lies and PM's question time

question-time for many things, almost all of them true. It is noisy. It is crude. 23 per cent over and above inflation. It is confrontational. But on this occasion let us stick simply to the facts. Or rather let us stick to the fibs. For the official falsehoods which disfigured yesterday afternoon's question time session are disturbingly indicative of the low level of public politics which we are likely to have to endure for perhaps another fifteen months until the general election.

John Major made three apparently factual boasts in yesterday's questiontime. Each related to an area at the absolute heart of the political battle the economy, education and law and order. Each was cheered by his supporters. Each went unchallenged by his opponents. Each was false.

Mr Major's first claim came when he defied anyone to find any western economy that can match the current economic performance of this country under this Government. Well, the Economist published the latest figures for annual increase in gross domestic product this week, the traditional yardstick for measuring economic performance. In those figures Britain's GDP growth is shown at 1.8 per cent. In other words Britain stands eleventh out of fifteen nations in this GDP league, outperformed by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Holland, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the United States. Nor is Britain at the top of any of the other economic indicator leagues. We are eighth on industrial production, third on retail sales, seventh on unemployment, twelfth on consumer prices and eleventh on producer prices.

Mr Major's second claim concerned education. This time he said that universities had no reason to introduce about false political claims. We will top-up student fees and that vice-chan- continue to hold them up to the light as cellors could not complain about the the contest rages. Meanwhile what was way they have been treated under this | that about Three Strikes and Out?

PEOPLE criticise Prime Minister's | Government. Between 1989-90 and 1994-95. he said, university funding rose by What he failed to say, however, was that in the same period the number of students going to Britain's universities has increased by more than 45 per cent as a direct result of a conscious policy about which, in other circumstances, the Conservatives are very proud. Moreover the amount of public money spent on each university student has therefore decreased by 25 per cent in the

five years in question. Finally Mr Major claimed twice that the Conservative government is the first government in 40 years which is presiding over a fall in the crime figures. It is certainly true that crime has fallen for the last two years, as the Prime Minister says. But the fall of 350,000 recorded offences between 1992 and 1994 is dwarfed by the rise of more than a million new offences in the two years before that. Completely contrary to Mr Major's claim, recorded crime has also fallen much more recently than the 1950s. It fell in the mid 1980s under the Conservatives, and it fell for two successive years between 1977 and 1979 at the end of the last Labour government as well. At that time, it is worth recalling, recorded crime was less than half the total that it is now.

All politicians use figures which suit their particular case. But it is a bit alarming, to put it mildly, when a prime minister makes an important claim in each of the three principal areas of the current political battle and each is so spectacularly false. Of Mr Major's three attempts yesterday, two were untrue and the third was extremely misleading. If nothing else, that tally proves the need for real alertness



Cut interest rates: we've nothing to lose but the dole queues

YESTERDAY'S simultaneous economic | (now 11.5 per cent compared with 8 per stimulation by France and Germany cent in the UK) which is unlikely to be should be thoroughly welcomed even if removed by a one per cent drop in Chatham, it won't be enough to blow Europe out interest rates alone. Germany announced what was deof the economic doldrums. If one country attempts to increase consumpscribed as a "vitamin dose" to boost the tion alone then, as France knows to its economy and reduce unemployment while at the same time cutting the cost, it can boost imports and run budget deficit (from 3.5 per cent to 3.0 straight into balance of payments diffiper cent of GDP) to meet the Maastricht culties. But if a number of countries do deadline. The background is that ecoit simultaneously they can offset increased imports by exporting to one nomic growth in the main industrialised economies is likely to be lower another. Europe is a largely self-sufficient economic block with a regular than expected this year with the exceptrade surplus with the rest of the world tion of Japan which is just beginning to crawl out of the worst recession for but has hardly ever exploited this podecades. It is not yet the time to be tential to the full - except for one overzealous example: the current dash pressing panic buttons, though it may come pretty soon. There is often a pause to reduce budget deficits in line with the Maastricht criteria, a policy which in growth during the business cycle before normal expansion is resumed. A is in danger of forcing the EU into an unnecessary recession. Today's envislowdown in world growth temporarily exacerbated by the stockbuilding cycle ronment - economic stagnation withhas hit Europe particularly hard beout inflation -- cries out for a multicause it has coincided with the Maaspronged stimulation by Europe and the US. France is faced with a rapid slowtricht-induced fiscal squeeze - with down in growth in 1996 when unemassociated high interest rates. The ployment is meeting strong social resissqueeze has stunted growth and worstance. Yesterday it tried to persuade ened unemployment, thereby depriving governments of tax revenues which people to save less and spend more could have brought those deficits down when its government cut the interest rate paid on popular tax-free savings by a different route. The answer is for accounts by one per cent and offered all the main economies to reduce their tax breaks on products like cars. This is interest rates simultaneously. There necessary because French people are has rarely been a moment in the past 30 years when the risks from inflation saving much more of their national income (14 per cent) than they usually have been so low. France did the right do. But the reason they are doing this is thing yesterday. Others should follow a deep-rooted fear of unemployment her example swiftly and unashamedly.



## Letters to the Editor My schooldays with Tony Blair

development.

79a Hanover Street,

Brighton BN2 2SS.

J M Stott.

**Rights**, lights and a wrong

GEOFF Mulgan calls on New Labour to embrace that hoary old cliché. "the right to work" (A high-stake society, January 30). But rights necessarily involve duties. The right to work, logically, has to imply a duty to offer employment. Either that duty fails on employers who would be forced by a Labour government to offer employnent, corporatist-style, to uneconomic workers, against the employers' better judg-ment; or it would fall to the Government to become employer-of-last-resort, running totalitarian (though no doubt benign) labour camps. Which alternative is Mulgan advocating?

John Torode. 25 Platt's Lane London NW3 7NP. THE National Grid Com-pany has been very pub-

licly congratulating itself on its 'near miss' - no power cuts were necessary after all. say spokesmen. But I would like to report a power cut in ' Chatham between 3 and 4 pm on Monday. Does this mean they didn't notice, or was it just a good old-fashioned unnecessary power cut? Gary Croom. 66 Thorold Road.

WAS in the same class as Tony Blair for two years in the mid-sixties (Battle for Britain, January 29). We were his hallmark. This vagueness at a private, selective prep is the consequence of his school, which promoted "high refusal to spend money. Real fliers" ahead of their year Five ages of child were spend money must be to use spread over eight classes; news-management as a submarks for all work were com-piled twice each term in to a monthly order; seating for years and the criminal statis-

meals was determined by po-sition in the previous term's end-of-term exam Many of the lessons Blair learnt at Durham's Chorister School are echoed in the lead

don't seem to have developed much subsequently. I can't imagine that Tony understands comprehensive educasocial or

did the

tics show where it leads. Lord Russell. Security Spokesman. House of Lords. London SW1A 0AA. er's views on education and the New Party's policy. Unfortunately, his ideas ANYBODY who has worked with children knows that, while intellectual

tion any better now than he Paul J Robinson Snainton, Scarborough YO13.

group.

Old-age tension

(Homes plan to improve old-

age care, January 30). These so-called informal carers pro-

vide far more care than any agency, and the estimated national cost of such care is

twice that of any formal care

We cannot provide the care

YOUR report of the Retire-ment Income Inquiry

Grey timebomb at the heart

of the Western welfare state,

fanuary 27) suggests that Sin

John Anson and his col-

commonly held view that con-

tinuation of tax-financed pen-

sions would become unpop-

ular with the electors, owing

BEFORE catastrophic deci-

ment today concerning this year's local government fund-

ing, Liberal Democrat county

councillors want the public to

be absolutely clear what is at

Local government is not

being squeezed — it is being strangled. We deliver services

far more efficiently and eco-

nomically than Whitehall,

and councillors can adjust

those services quickly in res-ponse to local demand. But we

are no longer able to deliver

anything like the services

This year's budget round

will be appalling: cuts in li-

braries will reduce every-

one's quality of life, cuts in

the youth service will in-

crease crime and alienation,

cuts in social services will

mean that people do not get

the care they desperately need, cuts in the fire service,

in street lighting, gritting or

road safety will almost cer-

tainly cost lives. Even the so-

called "additional" funding

for schools will not be enough

to stop rising class sizes.

stake.

needed.

Cuts the country can't afford

saved.

bribe

Leader.

Leader.

Leader,

(Clir) Liz Tucker.

County Council.

Hereford & Worcester

(Cllr) Geoffrey Tapper.

Dorset County Council.

Somerset County Council

and 18 other LibDem

county councillors

and group leaders.

Spetchley Road

As from: County Hall,

Worcester WR5 2NP.

(Cllr) Chris Clarke.

eagues have accepted the

London EC1A 4JS.

WE ARE delighted that reports on paying for long-term care are finally acknowledging that families

village. If you progressed exceptionally well in Standard 1 you leapfrogged over Stan-dard 2 into Standard 3 — and solutions cost real money, so on. At the age of nine, I and the price of a refusal to spend money must be to use found myself in Standard 7 with the 14-year-olds. I then secured a scholarship to a local public school, Remarkably, my wife's schooldays took exactly the same path, al-beit in another village. Fasttrack education is nothing Liberal Democrat Social Dew Ted Austin. 7 Willingham Road, Over, Cambridge CB4 5PD.

Y MOTHER was born in 1901. She went to the vilability can be developed be youd their years, it is not wise to forge ahead with their lage school at Grimethorpe in Yorkshire, which children attended from around four until the school-leaving age of emotional 13. Mum was top of the top class in the school at nine. She couldn't go to the gram-mar school in Barnsley, be-



TONY BLAIR'S 'fast SEVENTY-FIVE years ago, cause her parents couldn't af-track" proposal has the SI left the babies' class to ford to buy the uniform or vagueness which is becoming enter the "big school" in our pay the train fare.

For the next four years till she was 13 and could leave - she did odd jobs and taught classes, for which she was paid 2s 6d a week. All her life, she felt disadvantaged that her education had effectively ended at nine.

Tony Blair should remem-ber this when he advocates that children should "forge ahead in areas of strength" instead of staying with their age group. What will happen to fast-track children if they get a top grade in maths A level at 14? Do they drop maths until they go to univer-sity at 18 and meanwhile let the mathematical part of their brains ossify? Or do

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they go to university at 14 and say goodbye to childhood and a general education? Janet Evans. Wychwood Court. Ascott-under Wychwood, Oxon OX7 6AN.

A sticky wicket

IN THE wake of your piece Ion the BBC's fresh negotia-tions with Sky TV for highlights of next month's Cricket World Cup, your readers

## **Tackling the Soames syndrome**

The Government must make up for its neglect of Gulf veterans

WHO IS the real Nicholas Soames: the | medical assessment programme - and Armed Forces Minister who pledges his | even then only allocated a doctor for full support for British troops, or the two days a week - with a further two minister who describes a unanimous more years before being ready to comall-party Commons select committee | pile the data necessary for an epidemioreport on Gulf war syndrome as "unhelpful"? Yesterday, the veterans won a small victory. Fatty was forced to concede to veteran demands, which already had the support of MPs, and set up a fullblown epidemiological study into Gulf war veteran sicknesses - and | since. The MPs were right compared to into the deformities suffered by their children born since the war,

The veterans have every reason to feel aggrieved. Their treatment has been shabby. If the troops in the Gulf had adopted the same defensive pos- long an investigation into possible tures as ministers, the war would never have been won. Faced with a possible serious new medical syndrome, ministers seized every opportunity to procrastinate as sickness claims mounted. served their country, not financial It took them two years to set up a considerations."

an and fait is the second

logical study. If George Bush was "wobbly" before the war, ministers have been wet and weak-kneed since. Troops which were given "the best possible equipment" before the war, have been denied proper medical surveillance action in America, the Government's response has been "parsimonious" and "hopelessly inadequate". It is one thing to be sceptical about a new syndrome; it is quite another to have delayed for so causes, particularly the dangers of mixing vaccinations with anti-nerve gas tablets. Policy, as MPs asserted, should be driven by "the welfare of those who trusted.

Kent ME5 7EB. **/OUR** report about the sig International station contains a factual inaccuracy (Engineer sees rail signal peril

January 27). Major Holden, one of HSE's Assistant Chief The IPPR report clearly Inspecting Officers of Railways, has not said "no furshows that any cut in inforther action needs to be mal care in the community results in greater demands for formal care, with consetaken". New signalling principles have been introduced since the scheme was origiquent extra Treasury costs. nally designed and the Ash ford scheme does not yet meet we need without families' un latest agreed standards. paid contribution; but if this HSE does not believe that is to continue, we must supthe signalling scheme is un-safe; however, we have given port them properly. We must start investing in informal care instead of taking it for Railtrack a list of issues to be granted — for it affects us all. Jill Pitkeathley. resolved. S S J Robertson. **HM** Chief Inspecting Chief Executive, Carers National Association. 20-25 Glasshouse Yard, Officer of Railways,

Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HS. THE Prime Minister's request to Labour to co-op-erate in passing the Government's forthcoming legisla-tion on sentencing should be

Requiring judges to pass minimum sentences whatever the individual circumstances will prevent courts from achieving justice in sentencing. Automatic life sentences for

repeat violent offenders will remove any incentive to plead guilty, leading to fewer admissions of guilt, more distress to victims and a greater risk of wrongful acquittals. Taking away the prospect of early release through remission or parole will remove an enormous incentive to good behaviour and increase the risk of riots, violence and hostage taking in prisons. These changes would also increase the prison popula-tion by around 30,000. This

would require 50 more prisons the size of Dartmoor at a capital cost of £3 billion and running costs of over £600 million a year. Paul Cavadino.

Chair, Penal Affairs Consortium, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 9PU,

As a probable Labour voter and the victim of both a knife attack and a burglary in the not-too-distant past. I am indebted to Michael Heseltine for putting me straight on my relationship with criminals. I am obviously not to be

Simon B Monks. 52 Wickworth Street, Nelson BB9 0LQ

HILE YOURE STILLYOUNS

- though of course the cost is notional, and not paid for. working-age population up to the year 2035.

On past experience, real incomes will increase over the same period. Indeed. on the modest assumption of a 2 per cent annual growth rate for real GNP, real income will incapacity. crease to more than double its present level by 2035. It must follow that although the tax burden (National Insurance contributions) under the pres ent system would increase in percentage terms, the working population would still enjoy much higher living stan-dards than today. Brian Overall. 46 Kenton Court Kensington High Street, London W148NW.

HE workforce supports not only the elderly but the young and many other unproductive groups: ie it supports the whole population. Your graph shows an almost stable (but slightly declining) population of about 60 million. The working population is 32 million, failing to 29 million. Each 100 workers now supto the inevitable increase in the ratio of pensioners to port 190 persons and will, in

2065, support 210, an increa of 10.5 per cent or less. As we now have at least 10 per cent TV sports rights. unemployment, the problem would appear to be not our increased longevity, but the under-usage of our productive AL Flight.

26 Gresham Avenue. Westbrook, Margate, Kent CT9 5EH.

A<sup>S</sup> technology advances, fewer workers produce more wealth than the many of previous generations. In 1901 in Britain, there were 13 of working age to each person of 65 and over. By 1991 there were only four; by 2011 this will reduce to 3.8. As a result, have we become poorer dur-ing this century and do we now dread the prospect of liv-ing a long healthy life? Don't panic. Our National Insur ance has coped since 1926 and certainly can do so until 2011. Joe Harris. Chair, Islington Pensioners' Forum. 91a Tollington Way, London N7 6RE.

### should be aware of one or two key facts (BBC hits back for World Cup deal, January 30). The bid the BBC has put back on the table is identical to the one we made last autumn -when Sky broke off negotiations. Since then there has been much public debate about the monopolisation of

When Sky let it be known that our bid would be recon-sidered, it was duly made last Monday by our head of sport, Jonathan Martin, with my full knowledge and support. We hope the bid - which cricket fans can at least enjoy the highlights of this competi-tion. In the meantime, any talk of "derisory" offers and "humiliations" should be accompanied by a double pinch of salt. Will Wyatt.

Managing Director, BBC Network Television, Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

**A Country Diary** 

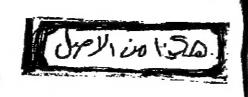
TAMAR VALLEY: Cargreen's | famous Du Plessis daffodils a Why is this shameful state of affairs happening in one of the richest countries in the world? Because we are govthe tiver, where flooding tide is brown and choppy in the erned by MPs who, although east wind. Across the channel paid to look after people's a broken shard stands out needs, are sitting in Westminfrom mud below Thorn Point. ster plotting how to save their marking the Devon side of an own careers: MPs who are ancient ferry crossing which became busy a century ago forcing county councils to push people off the lifeboat so after the opening of South they can try to buy the next Western's railway from Plymelection with the money outh to Waterloo. Local growers brought early straw-And because Her Majesty's berries to be rowed over, transferred into wagons and Opposition, to their eternal shame, did not even oppose the one-penny-off-income-tax Devopport and cargoes of lime, dock dung, coal and grain were unloaded onto working quays. Now there is no commercial traffic and the river is valued for summer boating and as a background view from new houses. Fruit and flowers have been ploughed up or replaced by misted-up polythene tunnels growing pale green lettuce and cabbage. South, over a grassy hill where lower slopes were covered with the

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broad street leads directly to few years ago, Landulph the river, where flooding tide church is sheltered beside Kingsmill Lake. On this cold January afternoon, colour is muted with bare branches, stonework and frost. Succulent pennyworts, yellow lichen and wiry spleenwort ferns cling to the church-yard's slatey wall and water flows in a ditch alongside the path to a dilapidated landing. Beyond the marsh, separating church from shore, contorted purple rocks and dark brown hauled to Bere Ferrers station for dispatch to London and the North. Regular market boats carried produce to grims set sail. Those from upcountry had crossed by ferry boat after resting in Bere Fer rers church and the Cornish contingent came down Paradise Lane for embarkation beneath St Dilp's church. Today squat ammunition barges are moored downstream and, high above Saltash passage, are the suspension road bridge and Brunel's great tubular and strutted railway link

VIRGINIA SPIERS

حكما من الدجل



Will

## Diary Matthew Norman

IGNS of an unex-pected crisis for Mr Tony Blair have been noted in Hemsworth. In the pulld-up to tomorrow's yvelection, there have been ittempts to remove posters earing the slogan "New abour", on the ironic round's that voters think rounds that voters think hey refer to Arthur Scar-bill's newly formed Social-st Labour party. This conusion gives Mr Blair, Jandy Mandelson and Mastair "Bob's Boy" Camp-ell (the keeper of the Max-rell flame) a problem: what in earth is Labour to call tself now? Newish Labour? Duite Fresh Labour? Not So Old And Solied Labour? All zives the precise impression

have their attractions, it's rue, but the Diary's choice is Intermediate Labour. It of middle-cf-the-road harm-lessness which Mr Blair is so eager to cultivate. "So then, I say to you ..." (Dra-matic pause.) "Intermedi-ate Labour." (Flashing eyes, mabod dortisu fore with man-of-destiny face.) "In-termediate Labour ... for an intermediate Britain." (Standing ovation.) Yes, I think it might just work.

OURNALISTS at the Independent have noted the arrival in the newsroom of two domelike black bowls. They are mounted outside the office of acting editor Gentleman Charlie Wilson, and they contain not flowers or plants but close-circit camprovision. eras, sending pictures of reporters at their desks to

the Canary Towers security room. How tremendously civilised. Rumours that the paper is planning a merger with Jeremy Beadle --- be will write the leaders; the hacks will supply accidents for You've Been Framed have yet to be denied.

NCREDIBLY, one of Diary-forecaster Step-toe's New Year predictions has already come true The dog, who is widely regarded as the western world's leading canine soothsayer, foresaw that an estranged royal wife would be offered an Oprah-style chat show. We now learn that the US network CBS has offered Fergie \$1 million to do just that. Admittedly, Steptoe gave the job to Diana. But even so, is this not uncanny?

LICKING through the text of a speech he gave last Friday, I am astonished by the Prince of Wales's mastery of vocabu-lary. The subject of the speech - or "Remarks the Prince of Wales may care to make at Cromford Mill", as his press office quaintly

# On the edge of darkness

and British Coal have been privatised; BNOC (British National Oil Corporation) and the government share-holding in BP have long since Commentary been sold. There is a so-called spot-market in which electric ity suppliers "compete" to offer their electricity supply for sale. Britain's energy is Hutton delivered by private corpora-tions operating in "lightly" regulated private markets: no longer is there felt any need .......................

HE OLL shocks of the 1970s were sobering for the Government to at-tempt to diversify the counevents. They made not just Britain but the in-dustrialised West aware that the engines of their prospertry's energy supplies or en-sure the security of future

provision. That can be de-cided by private agents resity depended on energy - and oil in particular. There had ponding to price signals, with to be a policy ensuring the sesimply an upper-price thresh-old set by the regulator. curity of energy supplies both domestically and inter-

In some respects this trans-formation was justified. Internationally. World economic summits national co-ordination of en international Energy Agency to see whether world demand ergy policy was never much more than a talking shop, and the big jumps in productivity in the privatised utilities showed the scope for -costand supply were likely to bal-ance, while at home Britain's Department of Energy tried to savings.

Although Britain is rich in guarantee that Britain had as coul, the cost and danger of diversified an energy base as possible. It monitored prices, mining increasingly thin seams at ever greater depths was prohibitive — and the switch to gas allows cleaner, cheaper and more flexible investment and the technical imperatives of energy In electricity, gas, coal and oil the state either owned dielectricity generation. More-over, the break-up of the old monoliths has opened the rectly or had stakes in the great corporations, to ensure way to a greater diversity of the supply of the country's vital needs. supply, with environmentally friendly energy sources like Twenty years on and the wind and solar power spring-

Department of Energy has been scrapped: British Gas, the CEGB, the National Grid But like all fashions the pendulum has swung too far. | reflected in the regional elec-

Most reports of Monday's nar-rowly averted electricity cuts suggested that it was the first crisis of this type; in fact the grid has been close to collapse twice in the past six months. That all this has been happen-ing while the directors receive an extraordinary range of salary increases, bo-nuses and share options may seem like a cheap and rather overworked plece of populism — but it is true nonetheless. The security of British elec-

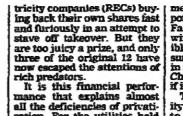
The security of British elec-tricity supply is weaker, the risk of breakdown greater and the price performance — given the fall in basic energy prices — only moderate since

privatisation. British electricity prices are slightly below the OECD average for household con-sumers; slightly above for in-dustrial consumers. This can-not be described as a

But financially privatisa tion has been truly wonder-ous. The rate of return on National Grid shareholders' funds unadjusted for inflation runs in excess of 25 per cent; the power generators and

electricity companies make around 23 per cent. Few British companies make such consistently high, risk-free returns; as a benchmark, remember that in public ownership the utilities had to make 8 per cent real rates of return.

Even allowing for inflation there has been a near doubling of their profitability since privatisation



sation. For the utilities hold monopolistic franchises, and not the price cap is set by the regulator the only way to make returns of this magni-tude is to displace risk on to others - the consumers and the workforce. The savage losses of man-

power are well-publicised, and with good reason. One di-rector of a utility, talking about the paybacks on vari-ous forms of investment, told me recently that while he reckoned it took four or five years for most standard in-

The return on

National Grid's shareholders'

funds unadjusted for inflation is over

25 per cent

vestments in new capacity to return the original outlay, redundancies paid back in 22 months. Lay-offs, he remarked sadly, given the low level of British redundancy payments, offered him the highest and fastest returns of all. The social security sys-tem and the individual tem and the individual worker pick up the bill. But Monday's near implo-sion of the grid highlighted another way in which risk is passed on to others. Spare capacity to meet winter

surges of demand or unex-pected withdrawal of some power stations from the sup-ply network, as happened last omer, costs the power generators and RECs money. It

ity companies in their quest to meet those financial returns, but bad for the rest of us. Those industries and businesses which cannot risk a power interruption are com-pelled to invest in back-up power-generation capacity, reducing their profitability and diverting funds away from more useful forms of in-vestment; hospitals have to tie up limited funds in spare power-generation capacity, because a power cut that pre-vents operations can threaten lives — already a subject of controversy at one London hospital. Individual house-holds can lose electricity and warmth when it's most needed — which for the very

old can mean death. Just the possibility of a power cut be-comes a major source of worry even for those for whom such concerns are up-justified; after all, who wants to die from hypothermia? The power companies have reduced their risk — but increased ours.

Perhaps more seriously, the demand for oil and gas is ris-ing rapidly across the globe, tion. reproducing almost exactly the potential imbalance be-

The utilities provide the public good of energy for all. This ethic could have been retained, even after privatisa-tion. But it has been lost through greed, indifferent regulation and the financial orientation of British corporate life; it will not be regained. So get used to shiv-ering and endlessly resetting the VCR after power cuts — and don't forget to congratulate the directors on their business acumen!

evidence is to be believed, only a minority of Scots are satisfied with the status quo. Another minority seek sepa-ration, while the majority seem to favour legislative deought to be scrapped paying huge sums of public money in legal actions to try to get that volution.

But in contrast with Northern Ireland, not only does recommendation reversed. Less, it appears, from the fury of the public backlash than because the balance on the council has changed and John Major refuse to consider devolution, he declares that it would inevitably lead to the break-up of the United King-dom. Why is the United Kingpeople who want to save the county have come out on top. dom more likely to be broken up by those who use peaceful and constitutional means to But it's probably too late. And secure change than by those who use violence? Why are minorities in England less deyet, in a curious way, it may be that Berkshire faces oblivion partly because it lacks the serving of protection through a charter than the nationalist will to survive. Its people have hardly risen in unified pro-test. There's little sense so far minority in Northern Ireland? These are difficult and perhaps dangerous questions. of affronted common cause. There is still a traditional They are certainly questions that ministers are ill-Berkshire, out to the west,

## **COMMENT AND ANALYSIS 9** means tying up idle funds in potentially unused capacity. Far better to run the system with the least capacity pos-ible, and either subject con-sumers to power cuts or bring in more power from the cross-Channel link with France – if it's available. This is good for the electric-ity companies in their quest At death's door countryside

the start of the next. This sense of disjointedness is made worse by the furious pace of the county's expan-sion, from 413,000 in 1951 to

sion, from 413,000 in 1951 to 774,000 in a vastly smaller acreage now. There is only one new town in the county: Bracknell, where the parish population has grown since the 1950s from 3,000 to 50,000. But the searce procedure of

But the savage pressures of

population growth and the shift to south-east England have created other force-fed

Even more hurtful, perhaps,



David McKie

WENT to Berkshire yester-day, which, unless the House of Lords takes a dif-ferent view from the Court of nave created other torce-fed communies too; like Earley and Woodley on the outskirts of Reading, four or five times the size that they were in the early fifties, or further West, Theale (1,500 to 10,000) and Thatcham (5,000 to 20,000). Appeal, is something one won't be able to do for much won't be able to do for much ionger. In a local government review once forecast to be a cull of the counties. Royal Berkshire — alone of the an-cient counties — is marked down, along with the 1970s concoctions Avon, Cleveland Evolutionary growth, people can just about take: such engineered expansions, destroying continuity, discomfits them. and Humberside, for extinc-

was the major amputation the county suffered in the seven-Astonishingly the county connived in its own destruc-tion. Inflamed by the scent of ties when, abandoning the Thames, the county's natural tween supply and demand that led to the 1970s oil shocks. boundary from its beginnings, a notable chunk of the county crat coalition joined the six district councils and the coun-ty's seven MPs in recommendbetween Oxford to the ing that the Local Govern-ment Commission should

Ridgeway was struck from the map. George Orwell was buried in Berkshire, in the churchyard at Sutton Cour-tenay, but he too is now in Orderichim Sure the with obliterate Berkshire. Almost Oxfordshire. Even the white horse at Uffington, the coun-ty's traditional symbol, con-tained in its coat of arms, was one in four of the submissions put into the LGC by the sort of people who remember to put in submissions on occasions like this were of just the same lost to it. mind. True, when Mori asked the people of Berkshire, they found that the two-tier system

You can see the results in Mori's findings on people's sense of community. Asked if they fait any strong sense of belonging to Berkshire, only was heavily preferred to any other option on offer. Had just belonging to Berkshire, only 43 per cent said yes: discount-ing Avon and Humberside, one of the lowest figures in England. (Hertfordshire, an-other county peppered with new and rapidly expanded communities, scored 44.) Just possibly a more seductive county town might have helped. Decent, solid, largely unmemorable Reading is close enough to the centre, but it one major player stuck out for the status quo, that option might have stayed on the table. But the weight of the submissions had forced the commissioners' hands. So we now have the ludi-crous spectacle of a county council which argued that it

enough to the centre, but it doesn't draw the county together as the best county towns — Hereford, Colchester, Norwich, Ipswich — so satis-fyingly do. So Bracknell shops largely in Bracknell, and Newbury shops in New-bury, and Windsor and Maid-enbased in Windsor and Maidenhead in Windsor and Maid-enhead.

It isn't merely romantic to say that Shropshire has a Shropshireness, or Dorset a Dorsetness, where Barkshire lacks a Berkshireness. But that's true of Hertfordshire too: and Hertfordshire has been saved.





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calls it — was the mill archi-tecture of the North-west, and he began by describing the scale of the problem as "enormous". Mind you, when it comes to attempts to put things right, he is "enormously encouraged". On the other hand, the size of the problem remains "enormous". And yet, let us not be gloomy, for English Heritage has made "enormous efforts", while the group gathered to hear him included people with "enor-mons expertise". It is noble stuff, of course, but didn't you find him a more engag-ing orator in his mucky period, when he used to talk to Camilla about sanitary protection?

NOTHER message left in his machine, another deafening silence in reply . . . the vigil for my friend Dr Julian Lewis reaches day 10, and still he is missing. I am now offering £25 for a positive sighting of the little chap who, before his disappearance, worked at Central Office, searching the airwaves for anti-Tory bias. I have ordered a dozen yellow ribbons, and these will be tied to the old oak tree in Smith Square until (God be merciful) he returns safe.

**N** EWS of yet another breakthrough in the fight against crime. Presenting himself at East Ham police station, an el-derly man passed the desk sergeant a piece of paper and sheepishly said: "Twe done my lines." Having in-vestigated, the sergeant found out that a copper who stopped him on a minor mo-toring offence had offered him an alternative to being Ham police station, an elhim an alternative to being charged. This the old boy had taken: the piece of paper contained the words "I must not drive in the No Entry zone", neatly written out 50 times.

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# Sauce for goose

If John Major's electoral plans for Ulster were applied to mainland Britain, they could result in the break-up of the UK, argues Vernon Bogdanor

N ALL the arguments about the proposed elec-tions in Northern Ire-land, no one has stopped vote was introduced for all vote was introduced for all elections in Northern Ireland to remark on the ease with which John Major has other than elections to the House of Commons — show-ing that STV was perfectly feasible both technically and accepted elections by single transferable vote to a detransferable vote to a de-ing that STV was permetry volved assembly in the prov-ince. Meanwhile, when pro-posed for the mainland, his administration denounces both proportional representa-tion and devolution as con-trary to parliamentary gov-remment, and likely to lead to the break-up of the country. Theland, however, has al-ing that STV was permetry feasible both technically and administratively. In the same year, the Kilbrandon Com-mission on the Constitution proposed that devolved as-semblies be elected by STV. No wonder the Electoral Reform Society declared 1973 a "Red-Letter Year", in which the soci-tive seeks... is something tion and devolution as con-trary to parliamentary gov-ernment, and likely to lead to the break-up of the country. Treland, however, has al-ways been a laboratory for the first world war, the Lib-eral prime minister, HH As-quith, suggested that Irish Home Rule could lead to a federal Britain. In the 1920s und 1930s, the Irish Free State ument on Northern Ireland, published in 1995 by the Britand 1930s, the Irish Free State helped as a Dominion to redeand 1930s, the Irish rree Scate published in 1980 by the Brit-helped as a Dominion to rede-fine the Commonwealth relationship, so paying the way for the admission of In-land? For this document pro-way for the admission of In-

posed a whole raft of constitu-tional devices — proportional representation, devolution, been reduced to the mealythan elsewhere. This has now been reduced to the mealyreferendums, power-sharing and a charter of rights — which John Major has ruled out for any other part of the United Kingdom as destruc-tive of the constitution. mouthed assertion that so long as Northern Ireland wishes to remain, Westmin-ster will continue to assume the responsibilities of govern-ment. It is hardly a ringing

Why have ministers been endorsement of the Union. so prepared to accept consti-tutional changes in Northern Ireland which they regard as anathema elsewhere? The A less cynical answer, how-ever, was given in the Frame-work Document. This declared that Northern Ireland cynical answer would be that, while they are anxious to maintain the Union with Scotland, they are indifferent as to whether Northern Ire-land goes or stays. They have, as the Evenewick Decument is different in that there is "fundamental absence of consensus" on constitutional issues. Yet it is not so much the absence of consensus that has moved the Government. as the Framework Document reiterates, "no selfish strate-gic or economic interest in Northern Ireland", a phrase but the nature of the gulf between majority and minority. For Northern Ireland is For Northern irrelation is alone in the United Kingdom in possessing a minority a significant portion of which seeks to belong to another state — the Irish Republic. And only in Northern Ireland is a minority of that minority the Government would hardly dare to use about any

is a minority of that minority prepared to use violence to end British rule. Yet it is difficult to understand why minorities which do not resort to violence are was that not only did the people of Northern Ireland wish to remain, but that they any less deserving of protec-tion. In Scotland, for example,

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equipped to answer.

UT the British constitution is not only It is unfair, also, to the majority. Under our rough-and-ready electoral system, the last three Conservative governments secured overall majorities — land-slide majorities, indeed, in 1963 and 1987 — on just 42 per cent of the vote.

The Conservatives have quite happily governed in the face of the nearly three-fifths of the voters who rejected them. Yet, while insisting that the minority in Northern Ireland be given a place in the government of the province, the Conservatives refuse to countenance a voting method which would ensure that a majority in the commons rep-resents a majority in the country. If there is a fundamental

li there is a unitalitation leitmotif to the Northern Ire-land policies of the govern-ments led by Margaret Thatcher and John Major, it is that of power-sharing. They have insisted that the union-ist majority in Northern Inand share power both with the nationalist minority within the province and with the Irish Rapublic. The guid-ing principle of the Frame-work Document was "that the correct of the Grameconsent of the governed is an essential ingredient for stabil-ity in any political arrange-ment". But is there any evi-dence that this consent continues to be given to con-stitutional arrangements on the mainland? Nearly three-fifths of the electorate, after all, voted in 1992 for parties proposing constitutional change. The Conservatives, moreover, have set their face against any other method of eliciting consent such as the referendum which Kenneth Clarke has anathematised as contrary to the principles of

parliamentary government — except, of course, in Northern Ireland. The Framework Document proposed that Northern Ire-land enjoy the constitutional checks and balances that we have offered in the past to colonies before independence. They are also the very consti-tutional devices that we pressed upon the new Federal German state after the war. Is it not time that we begin to consider whether we might not at last bestow these same

Vernon Bogdanor is Reader In Government at Oxford University and a Fellow of Brasenose College. His essays on Politics and the Constitution will be published shortly by Dartmouth

where county dialect survives, and people say "crimmany!" when surprised, and allege that someone who shows irri-tation is "kekkit". There are still delectable swathes of

in the east, where the end of On that technical, dictionary one built-up area, far from matter, a thousand years of promising liberation, inevita-bly frequently merely signals (Crimmany!

The outcome in the Lords will not turn, however, on local sentiment: only on whether, in varying the LGC's still delectable swatnes or country where life seems to go om much as before, over the windswept downs between Newbury and the Thames, or north west up the Lambourn Valley. But there's little echo of that the north and an antiparties to his own solution — six (the solu-tion also favoured by all but one of the county's MFs) — John Gammer has gone be-yond mere "modification" to something more strenuous. last word on the subject (five



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## **10 OBITUARIES**

### Sandor Iharos

# **Runner held back** by love, not tanks

metres records.

age of 65 of Sandor Iharos, who set athletic world records at seven distances in the space of 13 months, evokes memories of sporting achievements.

There was Puskas and his footballers, and the trio of Laszlo Tabori, Istvan Rozsavolgyi and Iharos on Europe's athletic tracks. One Olympic bronze medal between the three of them seems slight reward for such talent, but their running lives moved into the shadows of the 1956 Budapest uprising, when Soviet tanks crushed some of their fellow citizens and blurred that concentration which every sportsman needs.

Whether Iharos would have challenged Vladimir Kuts and Gordon Pirie in the epic Olympic 10.000 metres struggle at the Melbourne Olympics that year must be a conversational niece for those who remember

was love that kept him back. That summer, he met a javelin thrower and his dedication to training wavered. When the the fiftles, when Hungary's Hungarian competitors gath-free spirit was expressed in its ered after the Soviet Intervention, they decided the Olympics were the best place to demonstrate Hungary's inde-

pendence; all except lharos. On the track, he provided startling evidence of his scope and brilliance - and some rather heavy doubts. He was a man of great heart but little else, other than frail-looking elegance. At half an inch into four or five a week under six foot, he barely tipped the scale at 9st 6lbs. Yet on the track he was the epitbroke six world marks. ome of athleticism: were those feet touching the track, or had his master coach. Mihalyi Igloi, devised another method of motion?

But Tharos did not have the physical or perhaps the men-tal strength to cope with championship running; he the White City Bank Holiday meetings in which the Hun-garians always seemed to be a part. Yet the popular notion his battle with time. He glided

DEATH at the that injury or the Soviets pre-of 65 of Sandor vented lharos going to Mel-ros, who set bourne is now laid to rest — it runner to break both the prancing along in second prancing along in second place". With two laps remainworld 1500 metres and 10,000 ing, Tabori dropped out and

As a member of the Honved Iharos floated on, thinking Army Club. he and his col- about clocks not men - only leagues were full-time athto be disturbed by the rising letes. Mihalyi, one of the roar of the crowd as Yorkshire's Ken Wood began bearworld's leading coaches. brought him to a plateau of ing down on him. The gap perfection in 1955. In 1954, he | narrowed to four yards on the broke the European 1500 last lan: Wood closed on the broke the European 1500 last lap: Wood closed on the metres record with 3 mins 42.4 final bend, but fharos just secs. and after another win-ter's work - Mihalyi's athlifted his knees a little higher and took his prize of 8 mins letes were doing two sessions 33.4 secs - seven seconds inof running a day, when Roger side the old record. Bannister and company were

Two months later, he broke the world 1500 metres mark Iharos ran into a 163-day golden patch in which he with 3 mins 40.8 secs, and then in September and October broke the 5,000 metres record twice (13 mins 50.8 secs and 13 mins 40.6 secs), plus a three The first was in Budapest on May 14, when he ran 7 mins 55.6secs for 3,000 metres, to miles record (13 mins 14.2 break the record of 7 mins 58.8 secs) in the second of those races

secs, set six years earlier by Gaston Reiff, of Belgium, Fif-But his greatest record teen days later, at the White breaking performance came on July 15, 1956, when he low-City, he took advantage of glorious spring sunshine, a 45 000 ered Emile Zatopek's 10,000 crowd and Laszlo Tabori as an metres time by an astonishing paper's then athletics corre-spondent, Larry Montague, de-Union's Vladimir Kuts beat it



Sandor Tharos . . . a great heart in a frail-looking body

two months later, but the pair mild stroke and, more were not to meet in Mel- recently, came back into Budapest society, gathering again with those sporting champions who made Hungar-ian hearts beat faster 40 years bourne. Iharos and Mihalyi soon parted, leaving many to won-

der what, at the age of 26, he had left undone on the athletic track. His marriage was brief and, after a sports school coaching post, he turned to alcohol, sold vegetables, then John Rodda

Sandor Iharos, athlete, borr worked at a petrol pump. Eight years ago, he suffered a

ARBARA SKELTON. who has died aged 79. became a star without ever going on the stage. Her radiant beauty attracted a string of lovers, including Kenneth Tynan and Egypt's King Farouk, and led to marriages to writer and critic Cyril Connolly, pub-lisher George Weldenfeld and millionaire Derek Jackson. But she was also a writer of distinction. Barbara was born in Maid-enhead, the eldest child of an

**Barbara Skelton** 

army officer and a Scandinavian-born Gaiety Theatre girl. There was big money in the area, and a smattering of theatrical talent living in the Fish-eries Estate between Maidenhead Bridge and Bray on the Thames. The town of her childhood was sleepy, but there was also a risque quality, epitomised in the notori-ous Skindle's Hotel.

By the time I met Barbara she had already produced not only her first autobiography, Tears Before Bedtime, but several novels in which she told all, or nearly all. One of them, A Love Match (1969), was pulped after film-maker John

Sutro threatened libel action. Victor Gollancz described her as "one of the best writers in the country". She counted many influential men among her admirers, and I often wondered how she found the time for writing. But write she did, at her best as a short story writer, coming into her own with Born Losers in 1965, hailed by Anthony Powell first appeared in Alan Ross's London Magazine. Ross, a onetime lover, thought her best work had a "devastating vein of satirical caricature". Unprepared for their next disap-

losers" soldiered on. She went on too, balancing love and ber literary existence. In 1995, a second and last autobiography, Remem-bering My Good Friends,

appeared. Cyril Connolly, who she married in 1950, cited Weidenfeld in his 1956 divorce action against Barbara, In Weidenfeld's later 1961 divorce from

### Birthdays

Prof Sir Eric Ash, electrical engineer, former chief execu-tive, Student Loan Company. 68: Presily Baxendale, QC,

The Guardian Wednesday January 31 1995

Short stories

daughters.

pointment, he observed, "the

lucky woman.

Peter Cotes

**Ramón Vinav** Sound and vision

most famous of all operatic recordings. Born in Chile of French and Italian parents, he was educated in France and only took to singing (baritone) in Mexico, where he was working in his father's saddlery. He went in for a Coca-Cola sing-ing competition, and in 1931 some for a characterisation, made his debut at the Mexico | and this devotion to our tasks City Opera as Alphonse in La Favorite. Five years later, he retrained as a tenor and became one of the most successful reuth season early in the heroic voices of the 1940s and 1950s, both Ramón and I 1950s, with roles such as Don found ourselves at logger-Jose, Samson, Des Grieux, and later Radames, Otello, and Herbert von Karajan, who Tristan opposite Kirsten Flag- seemed to be concentrating stad, even though ne knew to German. For the first six years rhythms within his of the reopened Bayreuth Festi-brain than on the Liebstod music in the Tristan And stad, even though he knew no more on the mystical Varnay, who writes below, as Brünnhilde), Parsifal, Tannäuser, as well as Tristan. He triumphed as Cyrano de Bergerac in Alfano's operatic vertion at the Scala, also singing Lensky, Canio, Samson and Herod. His final years took him back to the baritone register, as Telramund in Lohenerin, as Bartolo, Falstaff, Dr Schön, and Iago, though his farewell to the stage was returning to the role of Otello in his own production, in which he was playing lago just for the last act. THE many excellent tenors I have en countered on the on one another's paim. opera stage, very few have had the sterling physical characteristics attributed to them in the story. Ramón Vinay, with whom I appeared both in his trademark role of mances in the theatre, or has

RAMON VINAY, who has died | — the voice, the musician-aged 83. was Toscanin's ship, the theatrical flair, and Otelio for RCA in one of the last, but assuredly not least, those Latin good looks that make any woman's heart beat faster.

Ramón and I were very much on the same wave-length when it came to artistry. We both believed in sometimes led to mighty out-bursts of Latin temperament. In one case, during a Bayheads with the conductor,



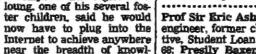
in the printed book depart-Trademark role ... Vinay's Otello at Covent Garden in 1955

Ulrich Loewenthal Seeing ibises

> LRICH Loewenthal, linguistic talents were put to who has died aged 72, full use in his invaluable con-tribution to a major Italian. Who has died aged 72, was a philologist, the British Library's senior curabased research project, the tor of printed books and an Renaissance linguistic archive for the Henry Sweet Philological Society. authority on almost everything.

> He was one of four children. In retirement he indulged born in Kiel, Germany, to a his love of nature, travel and Lutheran mother and Jewish wildlife. A socialist and proto father. Three years after the Nazi takeover, he was evacu-ated to Britain. With the war, New Man — he took his grandson to a mother and toddler group where, skilfully changing pappies, he was the only male — he was a family he was interned on the isle of Man and later deported to a Canadian internment camp, man wedged between the Caribbean culture that he loved through his wife and where he spent three years developing most of his quality of endurance and a loathing the Europe that shaped his for mashed potatoes. Taking a modern language early life. When Enid con-tracted Alzheimer's four

> years ago, he retraced with her his steps to Trinidad, to his beloved Caroni mangrove degree at Toronto University, he met his Trinidedian wife-to-be, Enid Kelly. They left for Jamaica and Ulrich taught swamp to see the scarlet English at Jamaica College, where his students included ibises and egrits. Composer Barrington Phe-loung, one of his several fos-Stuart Hall, Back in Britain in 1962, he joined the British Muter children, said he would seum as a research assistant



Skelton . . . writer of talen her, he cited Connolly. He third husband, Derek Jacson, was much married hin-self, and she parted with 3 settlement substantial enoug to keep her in style near Pari. But that was when sh wasn't back in London. In that city she made her old favour-

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ite Chelsea a home, and would - until his death in the 1979 - sometimes stay with Cor-nolly. Childless herself, sh was nursed in her last illnes by one of Connolly; It was Connolly who intr+

duced her to King Farouk d Egypt, whom she liked for ha good qualities, rather than hi regal status. She shared i modest Italian villa-cum-persion with the monarch, rathe than a palace. While concee ing that Farouk was some way from Rudolph Valentino whom, when she was a little girl in Maidenhead, she had seen in The Sheik - she added that he had better man ners than the silent star and was (then) the handsomest man, if not the best lover, she had ever had. She smilingly rebutted the idea of being more than the girlfriend of a king. "After all," she insisted, "Tm not the Queen of Sheba."

If that queen had had the looks that Barbara Skelton possessed in her prime, then she would indeed have been a

Barbara Skelton, writer, born January 29, 1916; died January

### Death Notices

Dearne, clied pe Funeral 1.16pm

emarkable mental dexterity While I attempted to southe in times of emergency. In one case, he actually took what the situation as much as possible. Ramon's response to the might have been an embarfrustrations of having to sing rassing moment and used his in time with me without a rapid-fire imagination to turn clear tempo from the pit was the emergency into a deeply to bolt from the stage, vault a touching theatrical moment. fence, and start running into The performance in quesan adjoining field - where tion was Otello at the Mexico City Opera, where we were guest artists. In the last act of my husband; Hermann Weigert, who was on the Bayreuth musical staff, found the opera, I had already been done in by my jealous hus-band, but found myself lying himself using the full mea-sure of his not inconsiderable on the edge of the bed with diplomatic skills to assuage the situation and get Ramon my arm resting uncomfort-

back on stage. Our final soluably on the wooden bed frame. Under these circumtion was simply to ignore Karajan as much as possible and tap out the rhythm discreetly stances, it was a more than daunting challenge to feign death with my arm threaten-Ramón's many exceptional ing to jerk involuntarily away

qualities are a matter of pubfrom me. Luckily. Ramon had just lic record and a thrilling memory for anyone who even begun to sing the final, heartwitnessed one of his perfor rending phrases of his farewell to "my" Desdemona, and Otello and in many Wagne-rian performances, had it all special memories include his him during one of the musical died January 4, 1996

pauses: "Ramón, my His spontaneous reaction, without breaking character or interrupting the flow of music in any way, was to take my hand and arm tenderly to his chest, where he adoringly caressed the allegedly defunc limb in the final throes of his own fading life.

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and in

I often wonder how many in the audience, whose sniffles of sorrow I could clearly hear from my position on stage realised that this gesture of sublime devotion had been aused by a cramped arm position and not by the trancendent genius of some producer. It was singing with Ramón Vinay that made me aware how complete the operatic experience could be. We will not see his like again.

Astrid Varnay

Ramon Vinay, operatic tenor and

encyclopaedic knowl- f everything from 2001-	edge that Ulrich possessed.
d British birds to Airi-	
t and world literature. r his retirement in 1985 orked on translations a consultancy but his	Heinz <sup>-</sup> Ulrich Loewenthal, born August 23, 1923; died December 27, 1995

Another Dav \* January 31, 1915. To Harriet Monroe:Poe is a good enough poet, and after Whitman the like at first reading. I don't see Monroe:Poe is a good enough poet, and after Whitman the that it will do much harm. For the rest: a portrait satire on best America has produced (probably?). He is a damn had futility can't end by turning that quintessence of futility. model and is certainly not to be set up as a model, to anyone who writes in English. Now as Mr P., into a reformed charac ter breathing out fire and to Eliot: "Mr Prufrock" does ozone ... I assure you it is better, "more unique", than not "go off at the end". It is a portrait of failure, or of a charcter which fails, and it would the other poems of Eliot which be false art to make it end on a | I have seen. 'Also that he is note of triumph. I dislike the quite intelligent (an adjective which is seldom in my mouth). Erra Pound, Selected Letters. paragraph about Hamlet, but it is an early and cherished bit and T.E. won't give it up, and New Directions, 1950.

Scott inquiry prosecuto Queen Beatrix of the Nether lands, 58; George Benjamin omposer, 36; Prunella Briance, founder, National Childbirth Trust. 70; Carol Channing, actress, 75; Rob

ert Clatworthy, sculptor, 68; William Crosbie, artist, 80; usan Dobson, magazine editor, 50; Joanne Dru. actress, 73; Lord Nicholas Gordon ennox, BBC governor, 65; Ofra Harnoy, cellist, 31; Carol Hawkins, actress 47 Prof Brenda Hoggett (Mrs Justice Hale), divorce reformer and High Court judge, 51; Norman Mailer, novelist, 73; Phil Manzan-era. rock guitarist, Rozy Music, 36; Rosanne Musgrave. educationalist, 44; jazz Ottilie Patterson, singer. 64; Suzanne Pleshette, actress, 59; Jean Simmons, actress, 67: The **Rev Lord Soper**, Methodist leader, pacifist and broadcaster, 93

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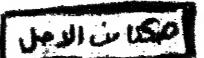
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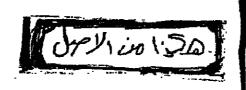
# The Guardian



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Wednesday January 31 1996

Kickstart for European economy, page 12

## Son of my father: the IFS findings, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

# FinanceGuardian

## NOTEBOOK

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# Unheroic future for group that dazzled



ORD HANSON has not lost his capacity to sur-prise. His decision to break up the conglomerate he created through an audacious series of takeovers over two decades is one of those rare decisions that did not leak to the stock market first.

Edited by Alex Brummer

He has decided to mete out to his own empire the same treatment that he has deliv-

FTSE with the exception of the P&O, signalled a company where the stress factor out-weighed the growth opportu-nities. There has been a genuered to many others, including ICI but must have been

aware that if he had not acted now, or in the year or so lead-ing up to his pre-announced retirement in 1997, then a new normalise Hanson, turning it | year. Both men had long from dashing corporate buc caneer into a staid, natural resources company. But the transition, although

has given way to the greyer, more consolidating and less

But knowing James Hanson and his strong sense of loy-alty, family and tradition it is inconceivable that personal factors have not played a crit-place. In fact the break-up de-place. In fact the break-up de-place. In fact the break-up defactors have not played a crit-lical part in the move. Among the more important of consid-erations will have been the desite of his lifebare beginners

thought that, through careful nuturing of diet and health, it was possible to cheat the age-

ing process. But Lord White's death, soon after returning from the UK to advise on the purchase

into four baby Hansons emerges at today's annual meeting at the Barbican, there will be no doubt be high

dersfield but it is possible to envisage a continuing role for him in a much smaller, more focused and understandable

told there is no hidden jewel in the Hanson crown. There are growth opportunities, like sell-ing tobacco into the developing world. But, by definition, Hanson has been and remains a low-tech, unexciting collection of businesses, several of which notably chemicals, are highly

> Others, such as the Eastern Group, which will be linked with Peabody, are highly reg ulated. There does not appear to be a glamour stock such as Vodaphone, an EMI or a Zeneca (now worth more than the whole of ICI before the demerger) ready to spring forth and surprise investors.

11

will create limited increases, rather than huge bounds in value. It is not that heroic a future for a group that once

# Hanson follows break-up fashion

# Three demergers end 25 years of market raiding

## Roger Cowe

tion three demergers which will undo much of what Lords Hanson and White created in 25 years of audacious corpo-

ing in chemicals, energy and tobacco. The chemicals company, covering Quantum and SCM. will be a US company quoted on the New York stock exchange. Imperial Tobacco will be quoted in London, while the energy company, in-cluding Eastern Electricity and Peabody coal, will float on both London and New

Shareholders will also retain their existing shares in Hanson, which will consist of construction materials and construction equipment companies and will retain its UK and US listings. Mr Bonham said yesterday:

"The USI demerger demon-strated that increased focus works and I am sure it will work for us.



ian King

HEN is a conglomer-ate not a conglomer-ate? The answer, it seems, is when the sector's king is dead.

fied, and have been quite seriously focused for a Not one of the companies contacted yesterday, all of which might once have been proud to call them-Another group happy to compare itself with Hanson ics, plastics, engineering and ceramics combine. selves conglomerates, was even prepared to use the Cshare price was one of the strongest performing last year, while Hanson's was one of the weakest. We're under no pressure to de-

word. They included: Cookson, whose activities sprawl across four distinct sectors, BTR, whose 100 or so com-panies are active in five and Williams Hold reas, and Williams Holdings, whose products range from fire equipment to wood treatment. Several of the companies

creating enough share-holder value. They were obviously not." One company which has lireaay aem

merge, as we're already

our main areas fit quite

This line was also taken

by BTR, whose spokesman said: "Unlike Hanson, we're not so widely diversi-

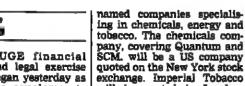
was Cookson, the electron-

A spokesman said: "Our

well together."

number of years."

ear of IIS Industries, a col-'Hanson's 1980s ontiost



giant ICL

rate deal-making. Hanson's announcement follows the fashion for focus

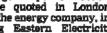
which has captured manage-rial imagination on both sides of the Atlantic and caught up companies as diverse as US communications group AT&T and the British chemical

It also continues the strategy pursued by Derek Bonham since he became chief ex-ecutive in 1992, and which was seen in the flotation last

York stock markets.

HUGE financial and legal exercise

began yesterday as





### Corporate affairs director Christopher Collins denied the break-up was a reversal of

the conglomerate Hanson set in mo-

generation of corporate ma-rauders -- egged on by an ac-tivist fund manager -- might have done it for him. sensibly managed, has not ex-cited investor interest. In many ways the conversion of Several factors played a part in what must have been Hanson from a Thatcher-era company, when it could inter-vene politically in such sensi-tive issues as the Westland af-fair and the sale of Powergen, an incredibly difficult deci-sion. The failure to deliver the kind of shareholder value, which has always been part of which has always been part of the Hanson creed, was cer-tainly among them. Hanson shares have been among the laggards of the FTSE-100. The yield of 7.6 per cent, better than could be obtained almost anywhere else in the FTSE with the graphics of

dashing approach symbolic of John Major.

however competent his son, Robert, may have proved in his various roles, he has never delivered in the way his father might have hoped in Europe, the Far East or in charge of takeovers and equisition.

too powerful and the institu-tional shareholders would not have it.

He has talked of going back to run the family contract transport business in Hud-

evident to Lord Hanson, that | from his own father. Despite its size and reach Hanson has always retained the style of a family company, which can now perhaps be perpetuated. As the details of the split

cyclical.

Instead, the break-up is a sensible, logical move which However, as far as can be dazzled with its bravado.

hopes that the new Hanson companies, focused on ener-gy, chemicals, tobacco and some traditional low-tech some traditional low-tech business, such as bricks and property, will — like other famous break-ups such as Ra-cal, ICI and AT&T in the United States — release a series of dynamic companies from the strait-jacket of common ownership. Certainly, it will help, as the rise in the Hanson share price following the demerger

### weighed the growth opportu-nities. There has been a genu-ine attempt in the 1990s to partner, Gordon White, last It also, perhaps, has been on retirement as James had proposal demonstrated.

of the Eastern Group was a Robert has apparently rec-ognised that be could never inherit control of the group as it was previously constructed — It was simply too large and sharp remainder of mortality. He was at James Hanson's such during all the great take-overs of the 1980s, indeed in many such as the landmark SCM deal he was the commander-m-chief. Without him at his side to

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**Jeath Notices** 

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businesses part of the group's conglomerata. "It's an obvi-many acquisitions in the ous culmination of the con-1970s and 80s. If all goes to plan, and shareholders approve the three spin-offs, they will receive shares in as-yet un-



style of doing

the other

decade'

28.99

superficial, unsustainable

boom of that

Hanson, by Alex

Cowe, 4th Estate,

Brummer and Roger

in keeping with the

extravagant 1980s.

But it has fallen out

fashion, along with

components of the

tinuing process of concentrating on fewer, larger business. It's not a change or a reversal, but an evolution to meet the new conditions of the times. It's an extremely interesting, postive evolution." He also said the move was not a defensive measure and

was not connected with Lord Hanson's retirement, planned for next year. But City sources noted that the company had been under pressure because of its poor share price performance. One fund manager said: "The com-pany was obviously under pressure from shareholders

and institutions to deliver more value to shareholders." John Ainsworth, fund man-ager with Hill Samuel Asset Management, said: "Certainly Hanson has not been a partic-ularly successful share to hold for years." While Hanson's share price

rose by 7p to close yesterday at 211.5p, one analyst queried whether the individual com-'Lord Hanson built a business which was panies would maintain Han-son's recent generosity in

dividend payments. And Geoffrey Carrington, a fund manager with Norwich Union, said: "This is not an exercise in value creation."

A fund manager com-mented: "Hanson was a bit like Lourho — one of those sprawling companies where you never knew what was going on. This move should improve clarity and now there will be takeover potential." Meanwhile, Mr Bonham warned that the break-up would take months to engi neer. "This is a gigantic exercise and it may take a year to complete," he said.

### THE HISTORY

### Thirty-year saga of empire built on takeover mastery

*.* . .

Slater.

**Roger Cowe** 

The Hanson takeover ma The Hanson takeover ma-chine did not really get going until the 1970s, when Mr White departed for the US in disgust at the political chaos in Britain. The feared duo, succeeded with only one hos-tile takeover bid before their first big UK deal in 1979, when they acquired strug-gling Lindustries. Before that in the 1960s and 1970e Hanson made a number THE break-up of Hanson is a dramatic conclusion to a 30-year story which began with the tiny takeover of an obscure truck company by an even more obscure agricul-tural supplier. The latter, known as the Wiles Group, bought Oswald Tillotson, which was the main business which was the main business interest of James Hanson and 1970s Hanson made a number Gordon White.

of agreed takeovers, most sig-nificantly in the US. But in June 1965, the Wiles



In focus . . . chief executive Derek Bonham has pursued a strategy of demerging the group PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM YURNER

### OUTLOOK

Dinosaurs on their last legs

Pauline Springett and Roger Cowe

EMERGER has become the fashion of the 1990s just as surely as the 1980s was the era of EMERGER has become conglomeration. To some extent the change

is merely a matter of finan-cial fashion, but there is also industrial logic in both

nerability of individual companies to single product or geographic markets. The City hates volatile prof-

its, so companies reacted by spreading their risk, buying companies in different indus-tries or different countries, or usually both.

But, by the end of the 1980s, it had became apparent that many conglomerates had not been successful and

proving the performance of the companies they acquired. Once the City fashion turned against them it was difficult for most to continue the buy-ing spres, so they were faced with only one alternative off what they had, rather than adding to it. Michael Goold, a director

at management research and consultancy Ashridge, said yesterday that fashion, and the City's difficulty valuing conglomerates, were the main reasons for the current

demerger boom. It can only be a matter of time before other UK con-glomerates take the same approaches. The notion of conglomer-ates arose because of the vul-profits did so largely known names, which has tory over Forte last week.

ever Tomkins' purchase yes-terday of US company Gates ing, rather than through im-Rubber indicates that de-merging is not at the forefront of the plans it has at the mom Chief executive, Greg Hutchings, still believes in the conglomerate approach. make the dealing profits He argues that a tough can-they had relied on by selling tral management, such as his team, can keep companies on their toes much better than remote shareholders, and will therefore achieve better

through the process of deal- | even included Tomkins. How-

But he hinted that there may be diminishing returns as conglomerates get bigger. 'Hanson is much more diversified than we are or ever would be," he said

Of course the UK corporate sector is buzzing with takeovers as well as demergers, as shown with Granada's vic-

ia even deulkea ei the exphemistism "diversi-fied industrial" — the term this decade, BAT, was also adamant that it would not commonly used in the City - emphasising, instead, with all their corporate

be repeating the trick. Its spokesman, Ralph Ed-mondson, said: "We're breath how F for "focused" committed to both our tobacco and financial ser-vices businesses, and see they now are. A spokesman for Wil-

liams, a feared 1980s' pred-ator, insisted it could not be However, the most of However, the most curicalled a conglomerate. "We ous answer came from Bill have been concentrating on Turcan, chief executive of three core areas for the Harrisons & Crosfield, the past five years, where we have leading market posi-tions, and where we expect and building supplies, food

to make more acquisitions and agriculture and in the future," the spokes- plantations.

And Suter, whose activi-ties include refrigeration, engineering, chemicals and said: apologetically. "That "We're too small to de merge. And, in any case, information."

### Who's next?

### Other candidates for a possible break-up:

MAI — media and money broking **BTR** — industrial conglomerate Ladbroke ---- hotels, betting Rank --- leisure and entertainment Pearson - publishing/entertainment P&O - property, shipping Trafalgar House - shipping, construction BAT - financial services/tobacco Inchcape — motor distribution and financial services United News — media, communications Cable & Wireless — telecommunications, Mercury Grand Metropolitan — food and spirits Bass - hotels, beer, betting Kingfisher --- retail congiomerate

But most of these takeovers | diversity than Hanson. Oldare between companies which style conglomerates may not be dead but they could be on operate in the same business - creating companies of less | their last legs.

### **VIEW FROM OVER THERE** Wall Street is left gasping by search for 'real value'

up, ITT decided to divide into three units: insurance, indushark Tran in New York trial products manufacturing, and entertainment, with the N AMERICA, the trend towards breaking up last keeping the ITT name. reached a crescendo last year as giant companies such as ITT, a diversified conglomer to follow the same route. ITT, a diversified conglomer-ate, and AT&T, the world's come separate units. Like Hanson, ITT was a rag-

bag of companies assembled in the 1960s and 1970s. by the time the \$25 billion (£16 billion) company split it-self up, it spanned sports teams, car parts, insurance and casinos Rino for teams. and casinos. Ripe for breakover of the NCR computer company for \$8 billion in his quest to combine communica-tions and computers. NCR turned out to be a millstone The new AT&T's neck. The new AT&T will hold on to the long-distance, cellular, credit card and consulting

businesses. The other compa-nies are the money-losing computer business and communications equipment manufacturing. "The complexity of trying

to manage these different ate, and AT&T, the world's Only five years before, the businesses began to over-largest telecommunications AT&T chairman, Robert whelm the advantages of inte-group, announced plans to be Allen, had led a hostile take gration," Mr Allen said.

TOURIST	RATES	BANK	SELLS

France 7.42Italy 2,360Singapore 2.10Germany 2,1750Matta 0.54South Akica 5.34Greece 367.00Netherlands 2.4400Spain 183.50Hong Kong 11.45New Zealand 2.22Sweden 10.37Indla 54.20Norway 9.56Switzerland 176Ireland 0.9500Portugal 226.00Turkey 90,141Israel 4.73Saudi Arabia 5.58USA 1.4700 Australia 1.97 Austria 15.10

Indian rupee and Israeli shekeli Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding

for Hanson, as parts of the prey were quickly sold which recouped most of the pur-chase price while leaving learned from his friend Jim sizeable profit earners within Hanson, such as Imperial The two deals marked the pinnacle of Hanson's for-tunes. The group's share price has never regained its standing since that time, and while further deals were done in the next 10 years, they failed to generate the same

1980s, culminating with the acquisition in 1986 of food and tobacco empire Imperial Group in the UK and SCM, the US conglomerate. The two groups cost more than 23 billion but they were the best deals Gordon White ever did fere Horson as parts of the 1972 - Bid for construction company Costain defeated 1973 — First US takeover, fish processor Seacoast, \$32n 1981 — US conglomerate McDonough bought, \$185m; Berec, owner of Ever Ready batteries, acquired, £95m **1983** — UDS stores group acquired, £260m **1985** — SCM chemical, typewriter, food empire acquired, \$930m; tobacco and food conglomerate Imperial Group, acquired, £2.5bn 1987 — Kidde industrial conglomerate acquired, \$1.6bn 1989 — ConsGold mining group acquired, £3.3bn 1990 — Peabody coal acquired, \$1.2 bn 1991 - Beaten off by ICI; Beazer construction group bought, £391m 1993 ---- Quantum chemicals bought, \$3.4 bn 1994 --- Sold office products, Beazer Homes 1994 - Demerged collection of US businesses

Win some, lose some

profits or excitement. Since Derek Bonham took 1980s, although some tactical | nesses were sold. Then a directors resigned, leaving nuicanuy in the US. Hanson as chairman and he began an astonishing charge the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the began an astonishing charge the emphasis has been on rolling back the work of the laboratory in the began and the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the began and the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the began and the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the began and the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the began and the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the began and the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the began and the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the colling back the work of the laboratory in the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the laboratory the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the laboratory the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the laboratory the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the laboratory the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the laboratory the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the laboratory the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the laboratory the takeover lessons he had through the first half of the laboratory the takeover lessons he had the

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## **12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS**

# Big two take another step towards monetary union as UK continues with the debate Power crisis

**Britain may** be out in cold if it doesn't sign up, says ex-Bank chief

### Larry Elliott nomics Editor

Britain could be mar-ginalised within Europe if it turns its back on a single currency. the former Governor of the Bank of England. Lord Kingsdown, warned yester-

day. Despite growing doubts on the Continent whether tough conditions for the 1999 deadline could be met, he said the UK could suffer from a devalued currency if it did not join.

He told a House of Lords economic and financial affairs select committee that Britain — until now the destination for more than 40 per cent of inward in-vestment into the European Union — would lose its ap-peal unless it signed up.

Multinational companies would focus on one head-quarters in mainland Europe rather than in the UK. If the Euro takes off, most companies would want

to be in Europe, he said. However, a more cautious approach to monetary union came from two of the Government's leading Euro enthusiasts. Former foreign secretary. Douglas Hurd, said yesterday he did not think monetary union would begin in 1999.

Mr Hurd said what is important is that, "those keenest on [monetary union] should now recognise that and not wait for the train to hit the buffers at the beginning of 1998". Meanwhile, the Chancel

lor. Kenneth Clarke, made it clear on BBC Radio that he would oppose Britain's entry if attempts were made to dilute the converzence criteria.



German economic minister Rezrodt (right), finance minister Waigel (centre) and labour minister Blum present their jobs plan protospars source prot

## France and Germany unite on economy

## ian Traynor in Bonn and Paul Webster in Parts

hit an eight-month high, the ERMANY and France yesterday unveiled "closely co-ordinated" plans to try to kickstart their flagging economies and en-sure Europe's two flagship countries meet the approx DAX in Frankfurt dropped 10 points and the mark fell as dealers pointed to the need for a further Bundesbank rate-cut to boost the German economy. Another sharp cut in the key "repo" money mar-ket rate is expected today. countries meet the entry requirements for monetary Presenting an "action prounion by 1999.

But the twin packages, degramme for jobs and investsigned to boost employment ment", the German economand consumption, provoked ics, finance, and labour widespread scepticism that they would be enough to genministers insisted they hoped to trigger an upward swing by

curity spending, and easing access to venture capital.

The four-year programme, likened to a multi-vitamin by economics minister Günter Revrodt, aims to cut taxes by DM34 billion (£15.4 billion), reverse the exodus of German business to cheaper labour markets abroad, and promote inward investment in the ambitious hope of halving unem-ployment to two million by the end of the century. But Mr Rexrodt admitted that, with

erate the growth needed to re-verse the slide in confidence. | system, offering tax breaks | this year, unemployment | state backed savings scheme, Although shares in Paris | for start-ups, cutting social se-would remain stuck at 10 per | the Livret A. But analysts escent

Theo Waigel, the finance minister, said Bonn and Paris had discussed their packages on Monday and agreed to un-veil them simultaneously. Three of France's top finan-cial advisers worked alongside their German counter parts in preparing the French package.

The French government's main measure to stimulate spending was a 1 per cent cut in the current 4.5 per cent in-

timated that only about £300-400 million would be injected

into the French economy. In Frankfurt, analysis and bankers argued that the German government programme amounted to too little, too late. "It's all very vague, there are so many question-marks about the programme's imple mentation and it's doubtful whether it will have the de-sired impact on the labour market," said Holger Fahrinkurg, senior UBS economist.

availability.

tor, which pointed out that Professor Littlechild's staff was already supposed to hold by regional electricity firms The generator said the

the regulator needed to ask for "basic information". watchdogs were at loggerheads with industry last night as

The Guardian Wednesday January 31 1996

inquiries

Chris Barrie and

Patrick Donoval

arities this week.

jolt industry

tigations into the near-coltransmitting gas, to supply details of contracts with other shippers and commercial apse of the electricity system As the National Grid moved to reassure electricity con-

sumers yesterday that power supplies were returning to pormal, the gas industry reg-ulator, Clare Spottiswoode, and the electricity regulator. Professor Stephen Littlechild, demonded details of case supdemanded details of gas sup-ply contracts agreed between British Gas and gas-fired

power stations. throughout the crisis that the The grid came close to or-dering black-outs on Monday night after five gas-fired power stations had been forced to shut down due to a shortage of gas. The stations were supplied on "interrupt-ible" contracts, which allows British Gas to cut off supplies when demand for domestic consumers is high.

would conduct an internal review of the events of the day to all major power pro-ducers. Dr Brian Wharmby of last week. Problems over gas the Office of Electricity Regu-lation (Offer) said: "I am writ-ing to seek information ... a-beut factors which can affect the gvailability of 'gas-fired. supply contracts and power generators were a matter for British Gas and the owners of the generating stations. The trade and industry de-

generating plant." He added: "I wish to know partment said it was monitoring Offer's inquiry but added whether your gas supplies are interruptible and, if so, how that it was too early to say this relates to the information flow to NGC (National Grid whether changes would be needed to ensure gas-fired stations had priority in receiving gas over other com-Company) about your The demand met with inmercial users.

The Pool, which runs the system through which elec-tricity is traded, said yesterredulity at one large genera day that power prices had soared under the spur of nearthe information, from earlier record demand. scrutiny of generators owned

### News in brief

## Pearson set for £46m takeover of SelecTV

PEARSON, the media combine whose businesses include Madame PEARSON, me media combine whose outstances include manufacture Tussauds and the Financial Times, yesterday announced a 246 mil-lion recommended cash offer for SaleCTV, the independent televi-sion production company whose shows include Lovejoy and Birds of a Feather. Pearson already owns Thames Television, producer of The Bill, and Grundy Worldwide, which makes Neighbours.

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desuits.

Pearson is selling on SelecTV's stake in Meridian, the ITV company for the south of England, to MAI, the media-to-brokin group which already owns a majority stake in the station, for £30 million. In a separate deal SelecTV, which used to be owned by Robert Maxwell, has sold its cable talevision business to Carlton, the London weekday ITV contractor, for 25.2 million. - Jan Kine

**KPMG ends century of silence** Moscow tops

### Roger Cowe

PMG, the accountancy firm, broke with more than a hundred years of tradition yesterday by publishing its annual accounts.

The document, designed to be as close as possible to the eport and accounts published by leading public companies, showed that the firm made a profit of almost 218 million in the year to the end of Sentember.

become readier to shop numbers fall by 2 per cent despite a 7 per cent rise in gross fee income, to £589 million. around for their annual audit. There have also been new competitors in areas like insolvency work, which have cut profits. Mr Sharman, whose posi

are partnerships they are not covered by legal require-ments on limited companies to publish accounts each year. But KPMG decided last tion is equivalent to the chair-man and chief executive of a company, received a total of year to create a limited com-£740,000 in pay and profit pany to carry out audits of share. His share of the profit, which was divided among the tempt to deal with the threat 585 partners, was almost of negligence suits to the part cause of possible conflicts building in which the plot. After all, everything has its

have found it difficult to . The average KPMG partner likely to be followed by other resist pressure on fees from was paid £180,000, with a big firms. 'The new audit large companies, which have basic salary of £125,000. Staff company would require financial transparency, but it's not sensible just to tell part of the story," Mr Sharman said. One difference from con-Because accountancy firms

ventional accounts is that the figures have not been audited. That will be remedied next year, however. The winner of a tender is likely to come from the second tier of medium-sized firms.

who emulated their fathers'

success scored almost seven

out of ten, while those who

ended up towards the bottom

of the pile scored just under

The IFS also looked at

single mothers, to see if there

was a correlation between the

status and income of their

fathers and the likelihood of

them bringing up children alone. It found that there was

only the most tenuous of links, although it added that

the women in question were

surveyed in 1991, when they

were 33, and that they might

not be representative of those

becoming single mothers

As a studiously indepen-

league of most expensive cities sia's new capitalists are

David Hearst in Moscow complaining at being able to charge 550 for a 30-kilo-metre taxi ride from the

AND Down, one of Moscow's exclusive airport, or even \$65 (per Unight clubs, nestles person) just to get through the passport and customs

request undermined Offer's credibility. Some highly placed industry sources had expressed astonishment that HE electricity and gas

Ofgas said that it had ordered TransCo, the British the two regulators began in-Gas division responsible for

Ofgas is understood to have overruled TransCo's claim that the details are confidential. The watchdog said it was concerned to establish what role British Gas played in selecting firms and regions for supply cuts. TransCo has maintained

need to maintain a balanced system is the only criterion at system is the only Criterion at issue in selecting firms for cuts. But an Ofgas official said yesterday: "We find that TransCo does have a duty here...(The cuts) may be done on a localised basis, but (TransCo) cannot say they are not involved "

not involved." The National Grid said it In a letter sent out yester

This was 28 per cent down £177,000. Included in his pay was a figure of £125,000 which is required by the partneron the previous year's figure. after what senior partner Colin Sharman described as "pressure on margins". For several years, audit firms in a pension scheme. ship agreement to be invested

nership which has unlimited over litigation. Mr Sharman added that liability That led to the decision to

vardstick as for the poor, the

**IFS** research showed that

while educational attainment

still mattered, the sons of rich

fathers were able to stay in

the same class, however they

did at school. Of those who

remained in the top 20 per cent income bracket, 13 per

cent had fewer than five O-

levels and 4 per cent had no

This asymmetry was fur-

ther illustrated by the maths

test results for seven-year

olds. On average, poor chil-dren who were later success-

Poor people tend

parents, while the

well-off do nicely

to have poor

children of the

qualifications

qualifications at all.

coming out into the open had publish information on the been difficult. "But it's a mat-whole UK firm, which is ter of transparency," he said.

six.

todav.

ters announced their commanist revanchist putsch The average price of the humblest single room in a

in August 1991. The manager languidly recited the price list a glass of freshly squeezed four or five star hotel is currently \$350. Sending a fax to London from the juice \$70, a swig of cognac \$400, a modest meal for two \$500, a cheeky little bottle business centre of the Baltschug costs \$14 for the first minute of transof wine \$3,000. Russian mission and \$7 for each subsequent minute. At that rate, it would be cheaper to television added that a night with a prostitute cost

one businessmen \$5,000 — after much haggling. Moscow has just been recfly. If Aeroflot frightens you out of your wits, you can always hire your own ognised as the world's most jet, a 15-seater YAK-40 at only \$1,250 a flying hour. Falling ill in Moscow is expensive city for a foreign businessman to stay in the world. Eurocost, an organialso not advisable. A bed sation backed by the Eurofor one night at the Central Clinical Hospital, where pean Commission's statistical office calculated the president Borls Yeltsin average cost of 24 hours in Moscow was \$543, the most recently spent two months recovering from a heari attack, costs \$200. expensive of 114 world cap-A Foreign Office spokes-

itals in the survey. Quite why Moscow man said it was not up should be so expensive, nousual for prices in new capitalist countries to go through the roof. He said one can really explain. Is it the presence of a voracious mafia, in comparison with that with most accommodawhich hyenas are paragons of reticence? Is it the relation in Moscow not up to western standards. hoteliers who had invested in upgraded facilities were tive dirth of five star hotels, or the presence of upgraded facilities were gullible foreigners with able to charge a premium.

more money than sense? Certainly none of Rus- capitalism fast".

price.

£360

£342

£310 5%

£298

### Alliance to become bank

BRITAINS fourth biggest building society, the Alliance & Leices ter, will today announce plans to become a bank, so ending its 150-year-old society status. More than 3 million society members will benefit from a £2.5 billion share bonanza when the society joins the stockmarket next year. But a million current account custom ers will be excluded from bonuess of around \$1,000 each.

The Alliance has long been tipped as a favourite for conversion into a bank, and was considered the most likely candidate to beat the Abbey National to this status, when it converted in 1989, However, commercial lending losses in the late 1960s put the plans on ice. — Teresa Hunter

### Germans eye chemists

GEHE, the German pharmaceuticals group which is Europe's biggest drugs wholesaler, confirmed yesterday that it is consider ing a counter-bid for Lloyds Chemists, a fortnight after rival drugs group Unichem announced a £514 million agreed hid for Lloyds. GEHE snapped up British drugs wholesaler AAH for \$400 million last May. Lloyds shares, which were valued at 396p by Unichem's cash-and-shares offer, have raced to a year's high of 450o. — Jan King

### Tomkins purchase agreed

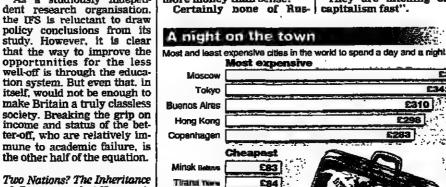
TOMKINS has finalised the purchase price for Gates Rubber, the world's largest automotive belts and hoses company, at £768.1 million. The payment will be in preferred stock and has been agreed two-weeks after the deal was first announced. The privately-owned Gates now joins the Tomkins' stable, which includes Rank Hovis bread and cakes and the Smith & Wesson handguns company. Tomkins released figures showing profits in the first nine months of 1995 at \$85.5 million (257 million). — Tony May

### Phone firm's Canadian deal

BRITAIN'S sole municipal telephone company, Kingston Communications based in Hull, is establishing its first North Ameri-can base with a £1 million acquisition of the Canadian testing facility Certelecom. Executives said yesterday the alliance would encourage mutual growth in the expanding European and North American markets. — Martyn Halsall

### **Brokers' Railtrack contract**

THE Government will today take another step towards the 52 billion privatisation of Railtrack by announcing that Merrill Lynch and UBS have beaten off stiff competition to become global managers for the international sell-off. Both brokers won the contract after 16 investment banks pitched for one of Europe's biggest privatisation opportunities. They will work under SBC Warburg, in overall charge of the sell-off. — Patrick Donovan





WORKFACE/Social mobility is far less the bottom of the social scale. there was a disparity, but it but as Lorraine Dearden of was far smaller. The ones the IFS put it: "Rags to riches common than politicians like to think, say is more common than riches **Richard Thomas and Larry Elliott** to rags." Using the same educational

groups, the IFS showed that

more than a third of those

making up the richest 20 per

cent had fathers who had also

been in the most affluent fifth. By contrast, only 10 per cent of Britain's top earners

had enjoyed a rags-to-riches

rise to prosperity from the

ain lacks social mobility, and the IFS stressed that there

was no way of telling from the

report — based on a single co-hort born 37 years ago —

whether society was becom-ing more fluid. However, other research indicates that

Some people do overcome poor backgrounds to strike it

rich, especially those who do

who hailed from what the IFS describe as "disadvantaged"

backgrounds who ended up in

tions. Just 10 per cent of the

It is also true that some

well at school. Among those

mobility has increased.

That is not to say that Brit-

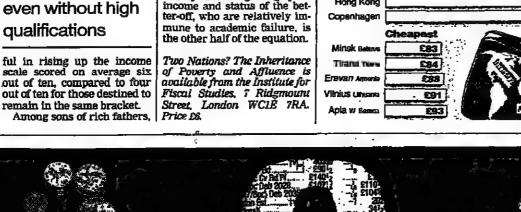
lowest quintile.

OHN Major's vision of a classless Britain is found with incomes. Slicing the country into five income humble beginnings in Brixton to the highest office in the land. But the experience of his opposite number. Tony Blair, the product of a privileged background, is more typical of a society where lass still counts.

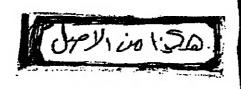
Research released yesterday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that despite all the talk of upward mobility and the forging of opportunity societies. the reality is that poor people tend to have poor parents, while the chil-dren of the rich do very nicely - even in the absence of impressive academic qualifications.

The IFS based its study on the National Child Development Survey, which followed the progress of a group of people born in a single week in March 1958. It used income and social class to compare how sons had fared next to their fathers.

the top 40 per cent of earners, almost 40 per cent had A-levels or higher qualifica-According to the IFS researchers, sons of manage-rial or professional fathers upwardly mobile poor left school with no qualifications. are three times more likely to end up in the same social bracket as sons of semipeople born with a silver skilled or unskilled workers. | spoon in their mouth slide to



out of ten, compared to four out of ten for those destined to remain in the same bracket. Among sons of rich fathers, Price £6. 412



### Athletics

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# **Bailey books** Christie into Atlanta

**Richard Williams** hears Canada's world champion up the Olympic ante

ON'T watch Linford's lips. Donovan Bailey

said yesterday. Watch his feet. And check the stopwatch. Because Christie is only fooling when he says he won't be in Atlanta this summer. Just as he was fooling, according to Bailey, when he collapsed on the track in the final of the World Championships last year. Christie won two races in Australia at the weekend dur-

ing his winter training pro-gramme, then fended off in-quiries about his intentions, saying that he was tired of being asked about the Olympic Games and had made no decision yet on whether to de-fend his title, at the age of 36. But Bailey, who relieved

the end of last season. The other day in Australia he ran 10 seconds flat. If you can do that, it wouldn't matter if you were 85 years old.

"You talk to any of the sprinters. None of us thinks Linford won't show up. Ask a sprinter from one of the smaller countries, a guy who might be running 10.6 right now. Ask him whether he'd

expect a guy who's running 10 flat to be there." And, perhaps as part of the psychological build-up to At-lanta, Balley pointedly cast doubt on the extent of the in-

jury which saw Christie end the final in Gothenburg lying on the track clutching his champion who won four con-ner Ana Fidelia Quirot, Stephenson.

hamstring and gesturing for attendants to apply ice-packs. "A fit Linford Christie ran that race," Bailey said. "He was first out of his blocks but he was overtaken. You watch it again. He was back in the willow a course of deta later. village a couple of days later ready to run the relay if your guys [Britain] were going to make the final. A short time later he ran 10.03 in Zurich. Me and my coach and the other competitors know that no one in the final was in-jured. Just watch the video." Balley's agent, Sue Barrett, immediately denied the alle-gations. "They are totally without foundation," she

said. "Donovan ought to be careful about what he's say-Linford flew to Zurich for treatment and if necessary the specialist he saw will con-firm it. It looks like a bit of a nublicity sturt " publicity stunt."

Like Christie, Bailey was born in Jamaica, where he spent his early life before his family moved to Canada. At But Bailey, who relieved Christie of one title at the World Championships in Sweden, is confident that when he lines up for the 100 metres final in July, the Olympic champion will be alongside him in the blocks. "Linford is blufing you guys," the Canadian sprinter said in London yesterday. "Whatever he's telling you, he'll run. It doesn't matter bow old he is. He ran 9.97 at the self the took in Gothenburg. You the took in Gothenburg. And yesterday he was dis-tinctly unfazed by the high proportion of questions he was invited to answer on Christie. "I have great respect for the man," he said. "This is his country so of course the question is going to come up." Bailey is based in Austin, tow old he is. He ran 9.97 at Texas, but has family in Croy-don and Derby as well as Canada. He expects a high-quality race in Atlanta, with the United States out to regain their sprint supremacy. "I think the Americans are go-

ing to be sending three guys who're really smoking," he said. "But I'm not fearful of any of them."

He was in London yester-day, along with the Cuban long jumper Ivan Pedroso and the German discus thrower Lars Reidel, to present a pre-Olympic television advertis-

ing campaign mounted by Adidas, the sportswear company. Introduced by Al Oerter, the American discus Sotomayor, plus filmed recon-structions of the triumphs of

sented the opening shot in the fight for the Olympic 100 metres gold medal, then these

## **SPORTS NEWS 13**

### **Motor Racing**

# **Cars to be** fitted with black boxes

do something like this, as the current situation makes the

teams feel very uneasy." He declined to comment on

whether the move to intro-duce black boxes was

prompted by speculation over the cause of Ayrton Senna's fatal accident in the 1994 San Marino GP at Imola in Italy.

Senna was leading the race in his Williams-Renault when

he plunged off the circuit at 190 mph, making no apparent

effort to negotiate the flat-out Tamburello left-hander. The

speculation has centred on

possible steering failure but, with no sign of the investigating magistrate's official report into the accident being

time it was taking to publish the Senna accident report. But he said he did not know

about to take action against Williams team members or

end as I am going to Italy." He admitted that he had

seen a copy of the technical

report on the Senna accident, but felt unable to comment

until the official version had

tween the national champion

and the national association.

been made public.

### Alan Henry

**RAND PRIX cars** Give the start of the 1997 season in order to remove any doubt about the cause of accidents. Max Mosley, president of the international governing body Fia, announced the move yesterday. The black boxes may be introduced on an experimental basis during

the coming season. Mosley said the design of the data recorder had been commissioned from an Amer-ican company and that the commussion would be around published, no final concur-total cost would be around published, no final concur-singuilion (£660,000), to be shared by all the competing teams. He confirmed that the sys-tor the accident. Mosley expressed his frus-

tems would be used only to gather data in the event of an tration over the amount of accident. They would not be used to apportion blame after collisions such as those be-tween Michael Schumacher tween Michael Schumacher anything about recent claims and Damon Hill over the past that Italian magistrates were two seasons. Mosley also revealed that Fla was attempting to create a

Fia was attempting to create a code, approved by the Euro-pean Commission, governing the future investigation of crashes in Formula One. "This sort of thing is very annoying because it goes on and on, but there is nothing we can do," he said. "I'm hop-ing to know more at the week-and as I am going to Italy." said it wants to see things handled in a certain way and

to have their code accepted by Brussels, and we want some-thing similar," said Mosley. We've started discussions with the Italian authorities to

### Sport in brief

### Tennis

A report to the German par-

liament claimed yesterday that Steffi Graf and her father Peter, both under investigation for alleged tax evasion, were given preferential treat-ment by finance ministry offi-cials, who held meetings with Peter Graf to discuss his tax affairs. Graf, 57, has been remanded in custody since

Skling A second downhill has been added to this weekend's women's World Cup schedule in Val d'Isère. Four races will be run over three days, start-ing on Friday with a supergiant slalom postponed from Lake Louise in Canada, followed by a double downhill on Saturday and another super-GS on Sunday.

### Ice Hockey

Ice Hockey Superleague Lim-Anders Nielsen is to be ited hosts a meeting at the

# campaign also features the Algerian middle-distance run-

secutive Olympic gold medals | heavyweight boxer Felix Sabetween 1956 and 1968, the | von and high jumper Javier

Eyes on the Games . . . Bailey believes he has nothing to fear from his rivals this summer If Bailey's allegations repre- | Nike, its American rival -

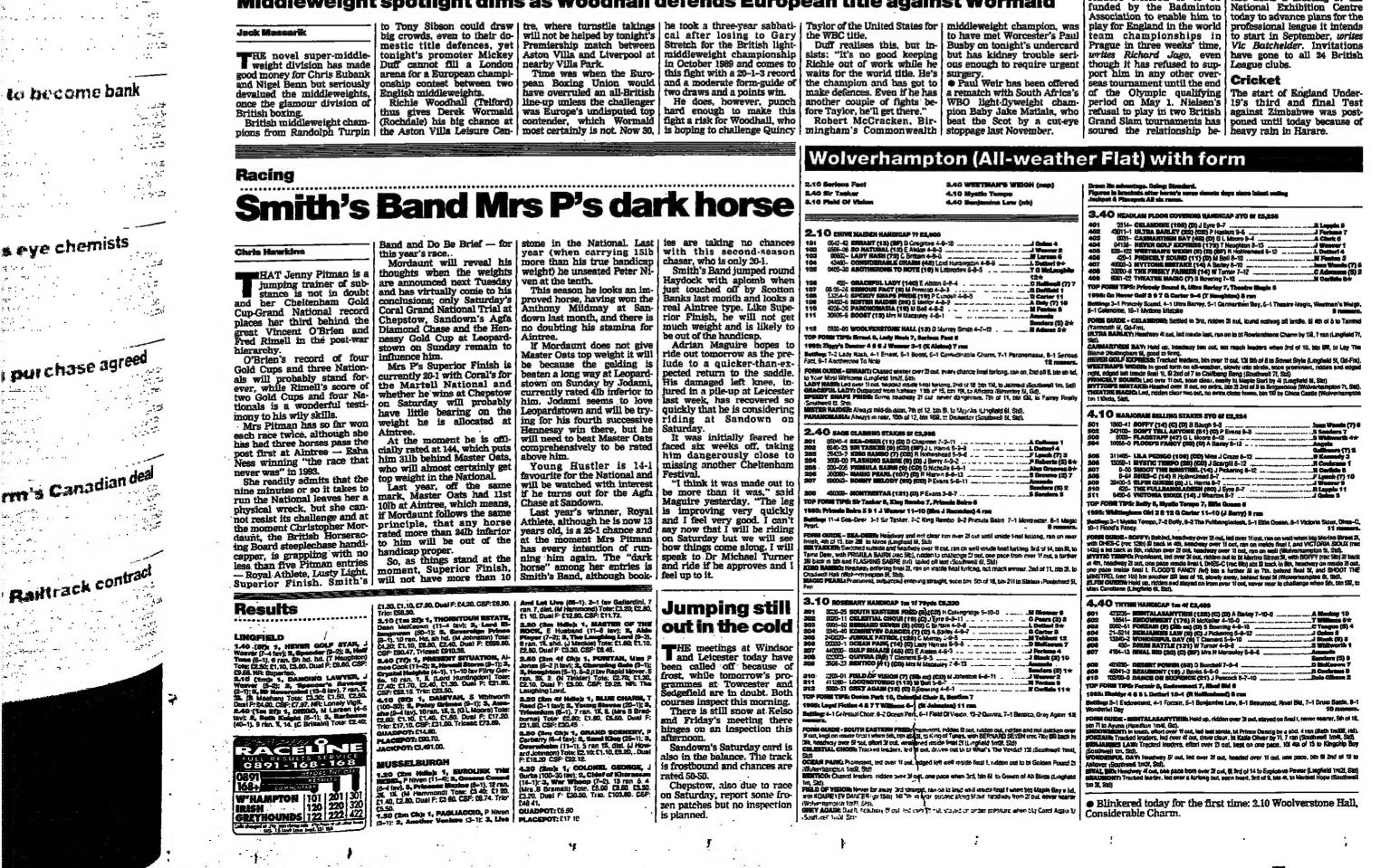
the billion-dollar battle to use the coming summer's images of sporting excellence to get shoes moving at record speed.

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

August on suspicion of con-cealing £18 million of his daughter's earnings. Badminton

### Boxing

Middleweight spotlight dims as Woodhall defends European title against Wormald



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## **14 SPORTS NEWS**

### Soccer

Martin Thorpe finds the fund of goodwill running out for the troubled Ray Wilkins

# Why Mr Nice Guy is now the loneliest Ranger

is so nice. Not that being nice should be a ing in the seats that Wilkins problem. But when one of all.

your team are staring Ends-leigh League football in the face and have just been knocked out of the FA Cup, the average supporter wants to have a go at the manager.

However, Ray Wilkins is such an honest and decent chap that most people feel plain guilty about criticising him. "It is like having a go at a favourite auntie." says Dave Thomas, editor of the Rangers fanzine A Kick up the R's. "Had it been anybody else, Ray would have got a lot more stick for some of the things

he's done. But people are prepared to forgive, because he is so nice and you want him to

After six defeats on the trot, though, the death rattle of that he was in no hurry to boos has recently been heard move up, an acknowledgment

John Mullin offers a sympathetic ear as the promotion-challenging Allan McGraw

month

laughs off suggestions that he is the sickest football manager in Britain

# Medicine man weaves spell over Morton

IS a phenomenon. I not for the clash of the wo dozen opera- Milan giants or an Old Two dozen opera-tions on his shat-tered knees, with one derby which matters, leg amputation a constant threat; his gall-bladder removed: a duodenal ulcer diagnosed at that operation: serious chest pains; And Allan McGraw, on extra-strength painkillers. thinks he is the lucky one.

The manager of Greenock Morton, promotion conten-ders in the Scottish First Division. laughs at suggestions that he is the sickest football manager in Britain. "But I will be donating my

sons at Morton bettered 35 body to medical science." McGraw, who holds the British post-war record for goals each year. His greatest and worst season was the most goals in a season with 58, is 54 now, and his father died from a heart ond Division championship

HE problem is that he | at Loftus Road, and according | of the unique stresses of managership, especially at a club ing in the seats that Wilkins such as Rangers where the best players are sold and is not the man for the hottest money is tight for replace-Even Wilkins was for the ments. But his apprenticeship has been tougher than even

first time talking publicly about the possibility of the he might have guessed. He saved Rangers from rele-gation last season and took sack after Tuesday's home de-feat by Chelsea, though the chairman Peter Ellis had the them to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup. But it has been previous day given his mandownhill from there. The ager a fulsome vote of confiproblems began with the en-forced sale of Les Ferdinand. dence for the second time this

The team not only lost 25-plus guaranteed goals a sea-son, but there was no money Wilkins's erudite television punditry and intelligent, con-fident, fatherly demeanour had pigeon-holed him as per-fect for the job 15 months ago. Everyone agreed he was the for a comparable replacement. And for all Trevor Sin-clair's touch and runs and enperfect choice. So how has it ergy, his contribution simply come to this? The 39-year-old said many does not have the same direct impact as Ferdinand's.

times before he jumped through the hoops at Rangers From there flowed Wilkins next problem: whom to buy with the money that did become available. The manager

flunked the test. After deciding the midfield needed strengthening, he paid £1.25 million for Ned Zelic, who was injured for two months, started three first-team games, became homesick and is now on loan at Eintracht Frankfurt. And, crucially, Ze-lic's much-needed transfer fee cannot be used for urgent team strengthening until he

is sold Then there was the strange case of Simon Osborn, bought from Reading for 2550,000. He hardly played, and five months later was sold to Wolves.

Wilkins's other transfer decision was to pay £1.5 million for a 34-year-old, Mark Hateley, who was injured for six weeks on his arrival in Octo-ber and has since scored only one goal. "The bottom line says Thomas, "is we're not good enough. Wilkins says he has tried to

Wilkins ... curious buys stantly changing the team's line-up and system. But his critics call that "not knowing his best side" and disrupting any chance of forging an

find a winning blend from his limited resources by con-

understanding. There is also the confidence problem. Rangers lost some

crucial games at the start of the season when they were playing well, which set them on a slippery psychological slope from which they have not recovered. Wilkins has also pointed to the silly mistakes his team keep making. Yet despite the problem and the team's ominous posismashin

tion he refuses to panic or to his team in public, criticise



Zelic ... began three games

always highlighting the positive aspects of a losing performance and predicting all will come right. As defeat follows manager. The five-man sub-committee declined to reveal its condefeat, his optimism has clusions but is understood to taken on a surreal quality. have drawn up a shortlist of

As Thomas says: "There re times when the ship's sinking that you don't want the captain to be walking around reassuring everybody that everything's okay. It would be nice to hear some cold-blooded realism. If we're crap we want to hear that we ware crap. We're tired of hearing the same old line. We just want a recognition that everything's not super and

Which is why being nice can be a problem

still top **England** list sub-committee yesterday. According to Wiseman, no deci-

The Guardian Wednesday January 31 1996

Refuseniks

es,

Wartin Thorpe

sions on the men the committee would consider had been made prior to the meeting. After it a statement said only HE FA's king-makers met, appropriately. that "progress had been made" and that the next meetfor 90 minutes yester day to compare notes ing will be held "in a few on where they have got to in choosing the next England

Wiseman added: "I suspect at the end of the day there will be one or two who really mean they do not want the job. but I doubt if everybody candidates from which sounddoes

ings will now be taken, partic-ularly to verify the authentic-ity of some of their public denials of interest in replac-Cynthia Bateman adds: The Cymnia Batenan ands. The four-man interview board of the Football Association of Ireland was yesterday trying to finalise a shortlist in its search for a successor to Jack

ing Terry Venables. The shortlist is likely to comprise the usual suspects: Kevin Keegan, Bryan Robson Charlton. Mick McCarthy, Joe Kinand Gerry Francis plus, possi-bly, Glenn Hoddle, Roy Hodgnear. Liam Brady. Mike Walker and Dave Bassett son, Howard Wilkinson and Frank Clark. have all been interviewed for the manager's job. The FAI is said to have been disturbed Frank Clark. The sub-committee — made up of the FA chairman Sir Bert Millichip. chief execu-tive Graham Kelly. vice-chairman Chris Wilcox, inter-pational committee chairman said to have been disturbed by reports that Southend United would expect hefty compensation if Ireland were to appoint their manager Ron-nie Whelan. The FAI chief executive Sean Connolly said there national committee chairman

Noel White, and FA councilfor and Southampton vice-chairman Keith Wiseman — first met this month. Since then the FA's technical ad-viser Jimmy Armfield has been sounding out opinion in were no dark horses in the race. The association hopes to pinpoint its target in the next two days, but does not expect to conclude negotiations and been sounding out opinion in who should get the job. It was these opinions that Armfield presented to the month. ssional game as to

# **Powell joins Derby drive**

impressive push for the Pre-miership by signing Chris Powell from Southend for

the profes

game

City broke down and Derby's manager was able to offer Powell the arguably more at-tractive prospect of joining a side leading the First Division by five points.

the squad, Chris was the player we wanted to sign," said Smith. "He will increase our attacking options. It

stay in the Liverpool defence attempting to deny Dwight Yorke his 50th goal for Aston Villa in tonight's Premiership

police on Sunday night - and turned, but appears to have convinced Roy Evans that he should retain his place at

1993-94 and repeated the feat

Ruddock was arrested by

Ville Park. The priority will be to stop Yorke, who scored twice in a 3-1 win against Liverpool in Villa's last home game of

think I will have long to Russell Thomas wait ERBY County's manager Jim Smith has reinforced his team's

2800,000 Smith's move for the 26-year-old left-back came after a proposed move to Manchester

"When the money became available for us to strengthen

are serious

Powell's arrival may speed the departure of Shane Nich-olson; the out-of-favour de-fender is having talks with West Bromwich. Neil Ruddock is likely to

attack at the same age.

His first scare came in the dug-out as Morton defeated Dunfermline last November, and he was rushed to hospital. He was unable to stay away, and was back at his desk in his tiny office. his crutches propped be-hind him, within 48 boars.

"I was sitting in the house exactly a week later. I thought it was my ulcer again. I went for a wee walk, and then the chest pains began. Terrible. I knew it was a heart attack and I thought my number was up. A couple of hours later at hospital, I felt like an imposter. It was if I'd never had an attack."

His wife Jean forced McGraw, Scotland's longest-serving manager after 10 years in charge at Mor-ton, to rest. So he tried to listen to the matches on the radio, but switched off in disgust as his side went one down within a minute to Dundee United to lose ground in the championship chase

He left it off when Morton travelled to St Johnstone but a neighbour phoned to tell him his side were losing 3-0 and the game was only 15 minutes old. "I thought I might as well go back to watch."

McGraw will be in charge tonight for the first time since his heart attack. On tion every year since then. the Clyde delta, they care The medical experts told

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with only one defeat in 36 games. But statistics of a sadder nature were to take their toll on his knees, now ruined by arthritis. "I injured my left knee

one derby which matters, and Morton, Second Div

ision champions last season, will go one point be-hind the leaders Dundee

United if they win at St Mir-

ren. And still have a game

He first arrived at Cap

pielow Park in 1960. Hal

Stewart, the charming con-man who ran Morton back

then, snatched him ahead

of Spurs and Newcastle. He

had a way with words. McGraw scored on his

debut, and in his six sea

in hand.

but I was desperate to keep playing. I took 25 cortisone injections in that season. Little was known about it then, but it seemed to work. They say now nobody should have more than three in a lifetime."

He had already missed a chance to join Chelsea. When Jimmy Greaves went to Milan in 1961. Tommy Docherty offered £28,000 for him. Stewart haggled for an extra two grand and the deal was dead.

But Hibernian did offer him a chance in 1966 to play for a bigger club. McGraw, his right knee now badly injured, felt they hardly got value for the £15.000 fee. But he still banged in

plenty of goals. Until his last match against Dundee in a League Cup semi-final in 1968. Already suffering the injury which ended his

playing career at 28, he still managed to score the win-ner, in time added on for treatment to him. His first knee joint was fitted when he was 36, with doctors telling him he had the knees of a 70-year-old. He has had a major opera-

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Field work ... Allan McGraw plots St Mirren's downfall tonight as he eases his way round Cappielow Park MUROO MacLEOD after two knee replacements. His left knee is on its fourth: the right its second. "I put off my last opera-

tion until May because we were going so well and I ation so relieved to see the legs are still there. I sometimes expect they will have didn't want to miss out. It was a mistake. It was been whipped off. The meant to be done in January and I was in dreadful pain. I only sleep about three hours a night now but it was more like three minutes then." He would fall

And the second second

crutches are one thing but I do not want to be in a wheelchair. "It's nobody's fault but

mine. There were a couple of senior players at the over more than a dozen time telling me I was daft. Morton never pushed me, although it is true I never times a day. His secretary Jane Rankin was regularly went to the same doctor twice for injections. I just summoned to his office via a special intercom button

£

him he would lose his legs | and she would have to un- | wanted to keep playing, | for their passing game. after two knee replace- | lock his knee when flecks | and I never really thought | He has a rule: his players lock his knee when flecks of bone jammed in the arti-ficial joint. about the consequences "I think I'm lucky. I've a

"I wake up after an oper job I love doing at a club I love. They have been good to me. It's the people here, the supporters. It's a magic wee place. Working with young people keeps me young. It's what I live for." McGraw, a laid-back char-

acter, took over in 1985, and Morton are now threaten ing to take a Premier Div ision place under his management for a second time. His side have sud-denly gelled this season and are earning fine reviews play a game of football."

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He has a rule: his players get the best medical treatment there is. Three of them have had serious knee injuries in the past couple of years. All were given the best help money could buy, costing a small club more than £50,000.

He will never let a player turn out unless the doctor certifies him fit. The captain Janne Lindberg fell foul of that rule a month back, de spite begging to play. "One more thing; no player of mine will ever, ever take a cortisone injection just to

about getting into the Premiership." last May in a 2–0 win. Nigel Clough makes his Manchester City debut Powell is convinced his new club will be among the elite next season. "I always said tonight at Southampton. where Alan Ball returns for that I wouldn't leave Souththe first time since leaving for end unless it was to go into the Premiership, but I don't last summer.

### **Coar denies Early return** for Gillespie **Batty move**

THE England midfielder David Batty was training with Blackburn's first-team squad yesterday as his chairman hit back at speculation that he was leaving Ewood Park for Newcastle United. Robert Coar denied that Batty had walked out on the club or that he had been ordered to train with Rovers'

junior players. Coar said: "We are most concerned about the inaccurate and unfounded reports in the national press and on radio during the last few days. There seems to have been very little effort to authenticate stories. David Batty has not 'walked out'. "He trained voluntarily yesterday [Monday]. The first

beam were not due to report back for training this week until today. David Batty has reported for training today." Manchester United's home FA Cup fifth-round tie against Coventry or Manchester City will be acreened live on BBC on Sunday February 18.

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A second second and an end of the second second

THE Newcastle winger Keith Gillespie, who has not played since tearing a thigh muscle on December 27, hopes to be back in action a week on Saturday for the derby game with Middlesbrough at the Riverside.

If all goes well the Northern Ireland international, who was injured playing against his former club Manchester United, will return a good fortnight earlier than

expected. Gillesple said yesterday: "I have started running this week and I have felt no discomfort at all. I am ahead of schedule and I would like to think I would be available for selection for the match at Middlesbrough."

Steve Howey, Robert Lee and Les Ferdinand, who were unable to train with the Eng-land squad last week, are all back in training and fit for the visit of Sheffield Wednesday to Newcastle on Satur-day. Darren Peacock and David Ginola are suspended. annis

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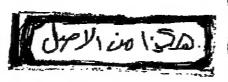
Sailing IFESH LEAGUE: First Division: Larni ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE: First Divisi Lujon v Sholi Ujd (7.45). Secand Divisi Bradiard C v Crewe (7.45). AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: San AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: San AUTO Section Sani-final Shrevebur LEAGUE OF WALKS: Postsonod Linn souver 92; Utah 106, Detroit 97; Seattle 92. Portland 68 Southern Soction: Semi-final, first leg Postponed: Peterborough v Bristol Rvis Results -----antifraid v Holywell. RESH LEAGUE: Premier Divisions Ards. .............................. New York want cup back TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP Cricket 3. Bangor 0. COUNTY ANTERN SHIELD: Final: Cru-**Rugby Union** HED STREPS CUP; [Chysics: Guyand 558-6 dec. Jamasca 154 and 370-7 JJ Ad-ams 120, T Powell 55, N Porry Scho: Naga-mooloo 3-105). Match Drawn. Third round Soccer YOUR MATCH: England A + New Soul Wales (2.30, Leicesler). NENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third Notherweil (0) 0 6.035 TENNESTS SCOTTISH GUP: Taited round: Hamilton v SI Johnstone; Hearts v Parick; Ciyde v Dundee. SCOTTISH LEAGUES First SI Mirran v Greenock Motion 74.5). Second: East File v Queen of South, Teinds Albion v Catogo-nian T: Ross County v Livingcion; Brechin v Arbroatt. E Stirling v Alba. FA TROPHY: First-round, second registy: Down v Chellenham (7.45). Cat VAUXOALL CONFERENCE: Gates-haad v Moreambe (7.45). Windass 37 Stugerer 48 ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE Walee (2.30, Loicesler). REPRESENTATIVE (MATCHES: Civil Sansco v Royal Nevy (2.15, Chiewicki; Combined Landon OB v RAF (Bailnee); Edinburgh U-19 v NachhMidlands U-19 (7.8, Carriej; Saotilsh Devolopment XV v **Rugby Union** venue. This is what the multi-First Division **Bob Fisher in New York** SRU TERNENTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Regional Leagues East Ones Edinburgh Windre 3, Currie 16. CLUES: Cancelled: Durivant y Swarseg; millionaire Bill Koch wanted Hockey Sunderland (0) 0 17,616 Clydebank (0) 0 911 Stirling (1) 1 McCormick 43 from the San Diego Yacht CORESENTATIVE Cambridge Univ Club after his successful de-HE New York Yacht Club. HAPHCSENTATIVE: Candonige Univ 3. Royal Navy 1: RAF 3. Cathor Univ 1 WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR SEAULE Div 2 play-office Final stand-LEAGUE: Div 2 play-office Final stand-Dig Lacibitonians &: 4. Havani 0 (first 2 Diversitia) Aladria (0) 3 Outheld 48, 62 Smith 60 Second Divisi the bolders of the Ameri-Maesteg v Pengrin; Tondu v Treord WRU MIDWEEK COMPETITION: P Ourham (Prestonpen fence in 1992, but the cup-Mooney Bill 1.076 **Brentford** (0) 1 Taylor 46 CLUB: Cross Keys y Lianolii (7, 15). De (0) 0 holding club refused. Koch then reduced his technologica's Cup for 132 of its 145 4 668 Caerohilly 36, Lianharan 24, Felikirk (0) 0 3,321 years, are making an all-out i Little 24 Banaley (4) 0 6,815 Oxford Utd (1) 2 Tennis **Rugby League** cal spending and backed an SHANGHAI OPER: First round: J Jan-ango (US) bi J Bates (GB) 6-4, 7-6; A Officovskiy (Rus) bi N Behr (Isr) 4-4, 6-3, 6-4; 7 Ho (UE) bi D Direr (Ger) 7-6; 5-1; P Baur (Ger) bi B Shelton (US) 6-3, 5-4, H Knowlea (Bah) bi W Bleck (Zim) 6-2, 6-2; D Suparford (GB) bi T Nydahi (Swa) 6-1, 7-6, C Curntal (Ib) bi X Jiapang (Chila) 6-4, 6-2. hgad v Morecambe (7.45). UKUBOND LEAGUE: Preside attempt to win back the tro-SELK OUT CRALLENGE CUP: Round Four: Dewsbury v London Broncos. Warknesser v Widee. phy when it is next contested, all-women's team, which com-Ice Hockey First-cound replays Boston Utd v Alfreios Third Division SCOTTISH LEAGUE Fersi-cound replays Boston Uid v Altretor To NCBS LEAGUE: Promier Divisions Harrow Bor v Bramley (7.45). First Divisions Harrow Bor v Bogono Regie To. BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Sauthers Divisions Poole To v Wataricoville, PONTINS LEAGUE First Divisions Man Uid v Blackburn (7.0). Second Divisions Burnley v Grinsky (7.15); Hull v Middles-brough (7.0); Preston v Rothertam (7.0); Sundariand v Locaster (7.0); York v Hul-brough (7.0); Third Divisions Chostor v Lincoln (7.0); Rechaite v Scarborough (7.0), Scuntorpe v Stockport (7.0); Walkall v Wigan (7.0); Wresham v Darlington (7.0); AvOst Institute the Scarborough Vingen (7.0); Sundarian v Bolinet AttObie First Divisions paince: Datard Uid v Porte-mouth; Wimbledon v Millinet (2.0); Second Divisions Newport AFC v Be-brought (7.4); Store 20, Starb Black Black manded considerable comin Auckland in 2000. Preston (0) 2 Cartwright 81 Saville 86 (pen) Nilla Ficiada 2, Pittaburgh 1, Otlawa 4, Si Louis 2, Winnipeg 2, Dailas 1. Derlington (1) 1 Himsworth 22 Second Division mercial sponsorship to pay for its own effort to dafend. In an ambitious twopronged campaign the NYYC have chosen the PACT syndi-cate, which built the Young Berwick (1) 1 Neli 20 Forfar (0) 0 300 Ice Hockey Snooker Exeter (1) 1 Cooper 58 albeit unsuccessfully. Hartiepool (D) O BRITISH LEAGUE: Press Durhum v Humberside (60) CM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE Mac-REGAL WELSH OPEN (Newport) 2,468 The superior technology of the PACT syndicate - which Missionit whether of the second star williams (South bit K Datherty (Iro) 5-2; Third round: 0 Datk (Eng) bit B Statistics (South 5-4; B Baden (Eng) bit B Statistics (South 5-2; J Parroth (Shaj) bit B Statistics (South 5-1; B Williams (Wales) bit T Murphy (N) 5-2. clealield 2, Allfincham 3; Northwich 3 Bromsgrove 2. Postponed: Telford Fulhano /0) 1 Blake 56 2,176 Seunthorpe (1) 3 Auria 22, Jones 69 Paterson 72 DOOR TOURNAMENT (Tokyos First PAR PACERC OPEN WORKSPY III-DOOR TOURNAMENT (Tokyor Part rounds, Spletan (Rom) bt L Mokell (US) 5-3, 6-0; B Schutts-BioCareby (Neth) bt M Strandlund (Swe) 7-6; 8-4; B Hisogie (Switz) bt G Sabatini (Arg) 6-3, 6-4; G Ferramder (US) bt R Hirabi (Japan) 8-4; 4-6, 6-3; A Suppremen (Japan) bt M Endo (Japan) 6-2, 6-4; L Raymond (US) bt R Stubbs (Aus) 6-3, 7-6; R Regelsman (Japan) bt Y Kamto (Japan) bt J Kruger (SA) 6-3, 6-3; E Reymond (US) bt J Kruger (SA) 6-3, 6-3; E Reymond (US) bt R Stubbs (Aus) 6-3, 7-6; N Beadding (Aus) bt N Zver-eva (Belarus) 6-2, 6-3 America boat which unsuc-Kidderm Kiddeminster UNIBOND LEAGUE: Prender Divisi Barrow 0, Bishop Auckland 0, Postpour cessfully defended the trophy will provide two boats for the Simon Jackson of Rochdele is stinling for a third successive gold model after being named in Britain's team for the Par-alympic Games in Atlanta next systemer. The 28-year-old visually-impaired judoka is named in the trait batch of 38 abilities announced yeaserday. The final squal is aspected to number around 250. 2000 challenge - was recoglast year off San Diego, to rep-resent the club in New Zea-Barrow 0, Bishop Auckland 0, Postponed Buston v Matlock. ICIS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Sutto Cittinghame (2) Z Rattray 15, T Butler 23 10 (0) 0 8,116 nised by Dennis Conner after 1015 LEAGUE Premier Divisions Sutton Urd 1. Purfieol 0. NONTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: Portponet: Goole In v Glasshoughton Wel GREAT MILLS LEAGUE Premier Div-ision: Postponet: Emore v Manpoisticid Urd; Paulon Purs v Brisiol MF. PONTINS LEAGUE: First Division: Derby 3. Botton 6 Shall Ufd 1. Newcastle 1. Second Division: Man C 1. Barnaley 0. AVON INSURANCE CONSUNATION: First Division: Chelsee 3. Swindon 0 Second Division: Postponete Plymouth - Bouremouth. land, while at the same time he had been chosen to defend Northampton (1) 1 Sampson 16 Plys an (0) a 3 911 the cup after a four-month series of trials off San Diego. inviting other clubs through-Wigan (2) 2 Johnson 14, 3 er (0) O Fixtures out the United States to assist Conner abandoned his own in the challenge. POSTPONED: Garnel V Torquay .................... NISC claim that their coast-to-coast sporta channel attracted a record 138,488,000 viewers to there invo acreening of the American toothalt linal, super Bowl 30 between the Dallas Comboys and Pitts-burgh Steelers. In rune this would make it the most-intensively watched talevision recording to ballow mouth: Wimblegen > second AFC y Br-mingham (7.49; Swansoa y Baih; Plym-outh y Bournemouth (2.0) LEACHE OF WALES: Ton Pentre y Com-Case Group Once Round Over Clubs who team up with boat; Stars & Stripes, and ne-AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD belate azeinu üE.7 gotiated a charter of Young New York will, assuming the Northern Section Soccer 2000 challenge is successful. America to race against the Semi-finals, first leg PA CARLING PREIMERSHIP: v Liverpool (7.45), Notim Fore (7.45) Southampton v Man City v Coveniny (7.45) then be entitled to compete to all-conquering Team New Basketball tran Cupe Group Ones Porthmadeg v Bangor G (7 SUN LIFE GOLD CUP: Ser Carlisle (1) 1 be the defender of the trophy Zealand, which then beat the Havward 1 5 511 NBA: Charlotte 88 Cleveland 86 York 94 Milanti 85 Philadelohia 103 POSTPONED: Roll

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and, if they win, choose the American entry 5-0.

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**Rugby Union** 

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# **Wales** put their trust in youth

### Robert Armstrong

ALES have thrown down the ALES arwel Thomas and the unarwei Thomas and the un-capped Robert Howley in a new half-back partnership for Saturday's Five Nations meeting at Twickenham. It will be the first champi-

onship game for both players, whose surprise selection whose surprise selection together represents a clear and potentially exciting state-ment of intent by Wales's coach Kevin Bowring. Howley, the 25-year-old Bridgend scrum-half and cap-tain, has risen through the ranks, representing Wales at Schools, Under-21, Students and A level under the approv-ing eve of Bowring, who was

ing eye of Bowring, who was appointed coach last month, Thomas, the 21-year-old Bris-tol fly-half, made a sparkling international debut two weeks ago, scoring 16 points in the 31-26 victory over Italy at the Arms Park.

Thomas and Howley have been given the formidable task of imposing an expansive 15-man game on England, whose own efforts to achieve

an adventurous style have produced little this season. The ambitious tyros will have the Test experience of Ieuan Evans and Wayne Proctor to draw upon, not to mention that of the 30-year-old Llanelli cantre Nigel Davies, who is recalled in place of his clubmate Matthew Wintle.

Bowring has kept faith with the Cardiff hooker Jonathan Humphreys, who will lead the side in his first appearance at Twickenham. Neil Jenkins, who won 29 of his 38 caps at fly-half, will be on the bench along with Andy Moore, the Cardiff scrum-half whom Howley has ousted. Gareth Thomas, the Bridgend utility

back, has been drafted in as another replacement. Bowring emphasized the need for his side "to improve upon the flexible pattern of play we showed against Italy".

Karl Johnston	of a
	of a Nation

Tennis

smeared by the International

Tennis Federation, which

leaked "false" information that they had tested positive

for cocaine at the French

Open last year, the players said in a statement issued by

their lawyers yesterday. "There is a scandal here.

But it is not about drug abuse. Instead it is a scandal about

ITF smearing two top athletes

iust as the accusations against them were about to be unveiled as false," said the statement, adding that an in-junction was being sought against the ITF in the High Court in London tomorrow or being and that further legal

Friday and that further legal

action would follow in Britain

which produced three tries and encouraging signs that the pace of the backs would be utilised. "I hope England will buy into that and play the ex-pansive game they have talked about," he said. He acknowledged that his

He acknowledged that his imaginative young side would be "playing against an estab-lished team" at Twickenham, where Wales have not won since 1968. "Still, I am not sure the England back row bas a lot of pace; we have been working on certain areas and we'll be trying to exploit their weaknesses." exploit their weaknesses." added Bowring, who has closely studied the video of England's 15-12 defeat by France.

Humphreys believes the match will be won or lost by the tight five. "We have an impressive line-out and we know what our two jumpers know what our two jumpers can do," he said. "We are aware of the physical chal-lenge the England pack pre-sents. But we have worked hard on our game plan for the past three or four weeks and I'm hoping the players can do "Twickenham holds no

fears for us; it's not as imposing as playing at Ellis Park against South Africa, which we did last September." Thomas said he had a good idea of what to expect from

the England back row, having come up against the Wasps captain Lawrence Dallaglio in a Courage league match for Bristol. "Obviously I will be targeted as a potential weakness in defence and I know I'll

have to repay Kevin's faith in me with a brave performance," he said. "I will not be looking for a physical con-frontation. Instead I'll try to find the centres and develop the sort of game we want."

WALES: J Thomas, i Evans (boih Lincell), L Bavies (Neath), N Bavies, W Proster (boih Lianelli): A Thomas (Braici), N Henniey (Bridgend); A Leuke (Cardit), J Hennieves (Cardit), Capi), J Davies, G Lievelly (boih Neath), D Jones (Lianelli), Replacements: A Thomas (Lianelli), Replacements: A Thomas (Bridgend), X Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Moore (Cardit), S Williams (Neath), L Shastos (Cardit), G Jenkins (Swanzel).

### Ireland get shirty with Francis

 ari Johnston
 bave its logo on the shirts
 But Thierry Lacroix, the 25 Casion goalkinker who was at his best in last summer's year-old physiotherapist from World Cup in South Africa, Nations. Ireland's squad, lenge since his return to the lenge since his return to the who signed contracts this
 Won caps at No. 10.
 Casion goalkinker who was at his best in last summer's his best in last summer's his best in last summer's points. Other physiotherapist from the physiotherapist from the shirts of a side in the Five Nations. Ireland's squad, lenge since his return to the lenge since his return to the physiotherapist from the physion from the physiotherapist from th Ndisciplined by Ireland's month, will earn between £24,000 and £28,000 this selectors, the team man-ager Pat Whelan confirmed season but they are required to wear specific training kit in the buildyesterday. The penalty, believed to The game's governing body, the International Board, will consider a batch of law changes at its be a fine, was imposed after the lock appeared at training before the game against Scotland this month, and later in a television interview, wearing a T-shirt with the logo of a building annual meeting in Bristol today. One of 37 sugges-tions is that all eight forcompany. It contravened an agreewards must remain in a scrum until the ball is ment reached with Irecleared in order to enable land's home-match sponsor, Irish Permanent backs to engage in direct Building Society, which has combat without the interbecome the first sponsor to | ference of back-row men.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

MATS WILANDER and had not given them a fair Karel Novacek were smeared by the International They alleged the ITF had

and the United States. The players claimed that the ITF had informed them about the positive tests but a were suing the federation.

**Injured Seles drops doubles** 

statement

used cocaine.

refused to provide them with the evidence on which the

charges were based. "The ITF ignored, in a

The test results, which ap-

Deborah Jevans, the ITF's general secretary, has de-

clined to comment after it be-

came known on Monday that

Sabatini, after losing the first set, led 3-1 in the second before the 15-year-old Hingis

Slam quarter-final in the Aus-

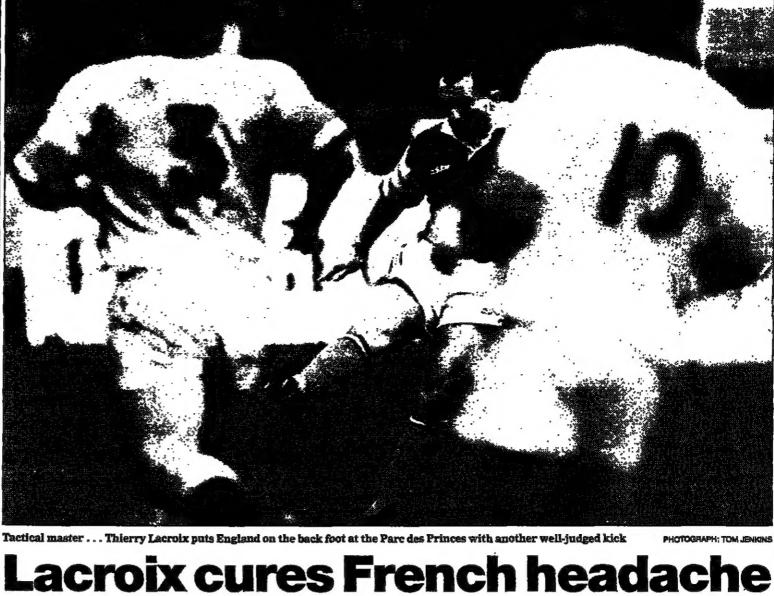
tralian Open. Jeff Tarango, the American

who achieved notoriety with his outburst at Wimbledon

last year, beat Jeremy Bates at the ATP Tour event in

We were smeared, claim

Wilander and Novacek



lan Borthwick on the fly-half who has been forgiven by the selectors and is taking up permanent residence at No. 10

a major headache for France

OR a number of years the position of fly-half, indeed the half-back combination, has been major headache for France afor headache for France major headache for France and the physical and techni-cal qualities to impose him-self in this new position," said Jo Maso, the team at centre. Perhaps more significant, though, is his recent experimanager

Having played 36 games for France, Lacroix is better known as a centre and a pre-cision goalkicker who was at

brought a new

a key role in Natal's victory over Western Province in the Currie Cup final by scoring 20 of their 25 points. "That South African experience was enormously beneficial for me. It enabled me to concentrate solely on my game and to gain confidence in my own abil-ity," he explains. brother Pascal alongside him

Despite the success, and the evident popularity of the two Frenchmen in Natal, the reception back home from his club and from the French Rugby Federation was less than enthusiastic. Dax club officials continued to be of-'He is one of the best fended by Lacroix and Rou-mat's prolonged absence, and the FFR banned them from in-

## **SPORTS NEWS 15**

## Only John Smith's bitter

David Hopps on a historic and happy get-together at Headingley

HE official conjoining of Leeds's rugby union and rugby league clubs duly took place at Heading-ley yesterday and there were no immediate signs of impending doom. The pigeons continued to flutter over the Town Hall, the River Aire failed to run red with the blood of tradition-alists and there was not the slightest sound of clashing

ideologies. A century after the split-ting of the two rugby codes, with the breakaway of the Northern Union, the first ground-sharing arrangement between union and league clubs was celebrated in a remarkably sanguine atmosphere.

One advertising hoarding did mention John Smith's Bitter, but so far as anyone knew he was the only one. Leeds have negotiated a five-year lease to play their nve-year lease to play their first-XV union matches at Headingley, and plans are afoot for a centre of rugby excellence a couple of miles up the road. There were even broad hints on both sides that the clubs are not averse to player sharing, which would take the agreement into further un-charted territory.

"We would be interested in any of their players," joked Mike Palmer-Jones, a response befitting the chairman of a League Four union club. In truth, with £2 million at their disposal, Leeds's ambitions far outweigh their present stand-ing. It is difficult to see how they can lose from the deal.

Only with both codes in such flux could this agreement have occurred. League is gambling on sum-mer rugby, and Rupert Murdoch's millions, and faces the prospect of an in-active winter; union, fear-ing a breakaway of its top clubs, has embraced professionalism and needs the trappings that go with it. Everyone talks of striding forward, but no one knows to pass, to run, or to drive the in which direction they opposition back with one of beading.

the World Cup to play for Skrela were quick to note La-Natal, walked straight into the side at fly-balf and played performance against Engsense and precision kicking had the English continually

ish giants as Sella, have brought him the perspective and the confidence necessary to succeed as a fly-half. Hav-ing been a mainstay in centre field he now knows instinc-

tively what his centres require, and having matured he is now better suited to take the crucial split-second op-tions and of deciding whether

land, for although he missed two penalties and one important touch kick his tactical

under pressure. The years of experience, of playing alongside such unseif-

as they have failed to maintain any regularity or consis-tency of performance. Since 1991 Didier Camberabero, Alain Penaud, Pierre Montlaur, Franck Mesnel. Laurent Mazas, Christophe Deylaud and Yann Delaigue, have all

won caps at No. 10.

France v England World Cup quarter-final in 1991, and the meeting with Scotland in 1994. But he has almost al-ways played for his club Dax at fly-half, with his twin

Early return denies move

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ONICA SELES pulled ing the Anstralian Open, which she went on to win. Sabatini, after losing the first set, led 3-1 in the second before the 15-year-old Hingis schowed poige heyond her 25 round the teenager Martina Hingis caused an upset by beating the world No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini 6-3.6-4. in Array

Seles, whose life was threatened, according to a Melbourne newspaper, during the Australian Open, made no reference to the report in an-nouncing at the last minute that to protect her injured

shoulder she was pulling out of the doubles, where she was paired with the home-town favourite Kimiko Date, of Japan, the world No. 6. Japan, the world No. 6. Seles, who plays her first singles match today against Irina Spirlea of Romania, strained her left shoulder dur-Sweden's Tomas Nydahl. In the second round. Tarango. fund of each of the three events. In Dubai the total money on offer was \$675,000. which would mean the or-business.

in the second second second second

his and keep it so until the next World Cup. The France selectors seem

to be thinking along the same lines, and after choosing Laines, and after choosing La-croix at fly-half against Eng-land have kept him there, de-spite changed circumstances, for Saturday's game against Scotland. With the senseless Richard Dourthe suspended, it seemed that the logical choice for France was to put Lacroix back at centre against the Scots, with either Thomas Castaignède or Pen-aud coming in at fly-half. But after years of searching

dimension to Natal shadow of the great Philippe Sella, he now wants to make a

new name for himself as a top-flight fly-half. 'I am 28 years old now and

feel totally at ease with con-fronting and taking on all the responsibilities of the position. That's what I like about it, I like putting myself under pressure." he says. "I have al-ways felt, deep down, that in-side fly-half is my position." Apart from the recent Eng-land match and two earlier

caps as a replacement, La-croix has played three times at fly-half, the second Test for a No. 10 who can impose | against Australia in 1989, the

ence in South Africa, where in the intense atmosphere of the Currie Cup competition he revealed himself as a truly world-class player. "I can't understand why France haven't played him at fly-half earlier." said lan McIntosh, the former Springbok coach. "For me he is one of the best in the world. He brought a new dimension to Natal's

in the world. He

Along with his Day clubmate Olivier Roumat, Lacroix

**Rugby League** 

ONY CURRIE, who

played for Leeds for two seasons in the Eighties,

is London Broncos' surprise

to Gary Grienth who was sacked last week. Currently a specialist de-fensive coach with the Bris-

hane Broncos - London's

owners - Currie takes up his duties next month. For

onight's fourth-round Chal-

lenge Cup tie at Dewsbury,

choice as coach in succe

Paul Fitzpatrick

ternational rugby for a month and from First Division club

and from First Division club rugby for three months. Consequently Lacroix missed the two Tests against New Zealand in November, did not play for the Dax first XV until December 17, and managed only three games before meeting England. "You quickly forget things if you're not playing at the top level. I was a bit rusty and I think it showed in my first game back. I've also forgotten the ban. I've forgotten, but I

haven't forgiven," he says. Both Jack Rowell and record that will take some returned to South Africa after France's coach Jean-Claude beating.

**Currie in the hot seat** 

of Keighley, or Bric Hughes, who made way for Shaun McRae at St Helens. However, Barry Maranta,

I player." Dott, ranked 190th

after his first professional season, will play John Parrott

ionight for a place in the mi-finals A battle of former

rld champions saw Parrott t Dennis Taylor 5-1, ez-

ting his unbeaten record inst Taylor to 13 matches.

in trio.

beading. "At the moment it is a his precision tactical kicks. And speaking of kicking Lacroix is poised to become straightforward business relationship, but who knows what might hapthe greatest points-scorer in the history of French interna-tional rugby. Currently with pen," said Palmer-Jones. "It's possible that during 351 points from six tries, 30 the next five years there could be only one code of rugby. These steps ensure that Leeds is at the fore-front for change." conversions, 85 penalties and two drop goals, he looks set to overtake the previous record of 354 held by Camberabero. If he fulfils his sim of

management committee be-lieve that that is the only way

Harry Jepson, a former chairman of Leeds Cricket keeping his place until the next World Cup, and if he continues at his current average of nine points per Football and Athletic Company, the owner of Hea-dingley, provided a grace for uncertain times: "Lord,

we are gathered here today after a century of separation. May we be ever mind-ful of your great mercies and thank you for what we are about to receive."

When the standard Yorkshire types did put in an appearance, angrily mutter-ing "aye, lad, aye" and meaningfully yanking their braces, they were only bitpart actors on a presenta-tional video. The curious thing about yesterday's union and league folk was that it was virtually impossible to distinguish them. Apart from the fact that the union alickadoos have

more expensive hair-dos. There was lots of drom-banging about staging World Cup matches, cup finals and the like, but it will take more than artists' impressions of Headingley ground improvements to bring that about. Success has also been in

short supply. Headingley might now be the only sta-dium in the world to house three professional sports (Yorkshire County Cricket Club being the third), but for all of them things can only get better.

Norman in row with Tour over appearance money limits

### David Davies

GREG NOBMAN, never over the parapet, has taken the fight to the enemy over something which officially does not exist. Norman, in Perth, Westshocking manner, the play-ers' fundamental rights and caused their reputation enor-mous harm," said the

ern Australia for the Heine ken Classic, is to discuss with Ken Schofield, the ex

peared in a newspaper last Sunday, had been kept quiet while the players appealed. Both passed lie-detector tests to show that they had not ecutive director of the PGA European Tour, the subject of appearance money. The Australian will talk in blunt terms about discrimination and restraint of trade.

He is upset that Schoffeld has written to three events on the 1995 schedule reminding them that it is the Tour's policy that pretournament payments to players shall not exceed 25 per cent of a tournament's total purse.

The tournaments given this advice are the Dubai Desert Classic, the Murphy's Irish Open and the

Canon European Masters in Switzerland — the three in which Norman played last year.

showed poise beyond her years, steadied her game and fought back to take the match. "I seem to have been singled out," he said. "You can't tell sponsors how to spend their money." If Norman has indeed been singled out it is hardly sur-"It was not as easy as the score looked," said the Swiss, who reached her first Grand

prising. As the world No. 1 he can demand more money than anyone else, and cur rently that is some \$300,000 (£200,000) for events outside the United States. If that was the sum he demanded as an appearance fee, it was more than 25 per cent of the prize

fund of each of the three

Norman . . . 'singled out' ganisers could officially offer Norman only \$168,750. The figures for the Irish event were \$975,000 and \$243,750 respectively and for the Swiss tournament \$1.050.000 and \$262,500. The Austra-lian therefore exceeded the

guidelines in each event on his own, and of course he was not the only player

Norman is the comfort-able leader of a world table for appearance fees. Behind him come players such as Nick Faldo, whose fee for a tournament in Europe is about \$120,000. Fred Couples and Ernie Els cost about \$100,000 and Sever-iano Ballesteros and Jose-Maria Olazabal about

80,000. Though Norman is right in saying it is difficult to dictate to sponsors how they spend their money, Scho-field is right to try. Every cent that goes into the pocket of a Greg Norman over and above the proper prize-money is money that should be available for all to have a chance of winning. Golf is still a sport, and it is a sporting concent that

is a sporting concept that everyone starts equal; the No. 6 let concept that the stars de-serve not only better points i Higgins rewards, which they get anyway, but a reward for not pol The merely turning up is to me. gins.

Snooker New triumph in the year Dott **Clive Everton** Gald Scot of by Hamilton continued b run hy heati at 20 alrea four worldat Newport the quarts Weish Op Dott's tory ove Monday

eter Ebdon dropped two of first three frames to Billy ldon, who had eliminated nie O'Sullivan, but came ugh 5-2. In this after-'s quarter-final he will Mark Williams, who Murphy 5-2. Mur-Vation is that wins s Wattana and son have earned Northern Ire-

London's chairman, has opted they will attract players of the for someone he knows well, albeit one who has still to necessary quality. Three clubs have received prove his capabilities as a ground-improvement grants from the newly formed Sports front man. Currie was a fine player, mostly in the centre, some-times on the wing, and acored 35 tries in 65 appearances in Ground Initiative Trust. Workington Town and Featherstone have each received £250,000. Leigh his two seasons at Heading-ley. He won seven Test caps for Australia, played in 15 £150,000. the side will be prepared by three senior players in Terry Matterson, Tony Rae and Kevin Langer. Grienke's dismissal on Sunday evenings with a there was much speculation that London would buck the current trend and appoint a London, meanwhile, are the Kangaroo tourist in 1990 but 6.30 kick-off. This arrange-

British coach, possibly the Welshman Clive Griffiths from Warrington, Phil Larder of Keighley, or Eric Hughes, who made way for Shaun McPace at St Helena

Wigan are to follow the ex-ample of Bradford Bulls and Halifax and will play their home Super League fixtures ment is subject to Sky's television requirements. Teamtalk



Sport

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Motor racing's spy in the cockpit, page 13 The sickest manager in football, page 14

King-makers draw up England shortlist, page 14

Sports Guardian

# Wales go for high-risk option, page 15

# **MURDOCH'S TELEVISION BID FOR GAMES REJECTED BY IOC** £961m bid wins Olympics for BBC

### Andrew Cuff fedia Correspondent

HE BBC was celebrat ing last night after an audacious bid by **Rupert Murdoch's** News Corporation to seize exclusive European television rights to the Olympic Games of the year 2000 was rejected

A £961.3 million (\$1.442 The deal represents a sig-billion) bid from the Euro- nificant victory in the BBC's

pean Broadcasting Union was | fightback against the increasaccepted by the International ing encroachments of Sky Olympic Committee for the Sports and Murdoch's powersummer and winter games until 2008, even though Murful cheque-book. Jonathan Martin, the BBC's beleaguered head of sport, told Radio 5 Live: "I think it

doch had offered to pay about £340 million more. It means the Olympic will get three cheers from sports fans everywhere." Games in 2000 (Sydney), 2004 and 2008 and the Winter He praised the vision and leadership of the IOC presi-dent Juan Antonio Samarand 2008 and the Winter Olympics in 2002 (Salt Lake City) and 2006 will be covered by BBC TV and radio.

anch for accepting the EBU's offer despite a considerably lucrative offer of up to

Martin added: "Samaranch stuck resolutely to the view, enshrined in the IOC's Char-ter, that the Olympics should continue to be seen by the argest possible number of " ahimhlyow are

The BBC has covered the Olympics since Rome in 1960 and Will Wyatt, managing di-rector of BBC TV, said: "This is a victory for the ordinary viewer ... a guarantee of full

£1.3 billion (\$2 billion) from coverage and universal ac the rights and then re-self Murdoch. In Britain coverage century.' Jean-Pierre Julian of the

BBU, which represents 65 broadcasters in 49 countries across Europe and was praised by the IOC for its technical expertise, said it was a victory for public ser-vice broadcasting. "It is ter-

rific news, but we were pretty confident. We consider sports as a public service." bids and the extent and qual-Murdoch planned to buy ity of coverage."

would have been shared between Sky Sports and a ter-restrial broadcaster.

A spokesman for News Cor-poration said: "We respect the right of any sports body to select the broadcaster of its choice. Rights-holders are well able to make their own decision with regard to the relative merits of financial



## Vincent Hanna

REMEMBER one early morning in Denver in the mid-Seventies. I was mak-ing a film and was taken by a friend to watch Billie Jean King practise. Taking on two players at a time, she served, ran, and hit scores of the sliced, high, backhand volleys that were her trademark. As she talked to us afterwards, she pointed out a small group of men who hung about under the trees staring at her. "They never miss an ap-pearance," she said. "They're obsessive. But they are really nuite harmless." I doubt whether she would hink so now. Stalking has become a dangerous thing in sport, especially tennis. And everyone thinks so; well, almost everyone. Last week offi-cials at the Australian Open received an anonymous phone call threatening death to Monica Seles. The tournament director Paul McNamee said: Any concerns that there were here were handled low key." By which he meant that a uniformed policeman was placed on each entrance to the tadium. Then everyone kept their heads down and their mouths shut. Seles was not told. I suppose the theory was that the silly girl might have panicked and called off the final against Anke Huber or something, and where would that have left them? Besides, this was a tennis

ah...yes...well anyway, it's

I'm not so sure. There is

uneasy. Mostly because the coverage they get usually

TALKERS thrive on

pins their relationship, mak-

it is only terror and pain. The

ing it mean something even if

Seles story came hard after the details, published yesterday,

of that tragic story in Hunting-

don. The victim there was also

under "police protection". Tennis, more than any

other sport, seems to attract

this type of obsessive. Chris

knowing that they make a difference to

their victim, it under-

makes things worse.

something about the spate of

stalking stories that leaves me

only a game.

Evert once found a stalker living in the wardrobe of her rented house at Wimbledon. She got a court order and the incident was hushed up. 'It happens to all the leading players, " she said. Theo Dunkleberg followed.

Wednesday January 31 1996

Women at risk

fantasy league

in stalkers'

Huber for months. Kurt Zuym-Felde used to sleep in a car outside Steffi Graf's house. Michael Salata was convicted twice of harassing her. And Günther Parche ran on to the court at Hamburg and stabbed. Seles for displacing his heroine Steffi as world No. 1.

What is it about the sport that attracts such people? My psychologist friend wished to remain anonymons. The pay-chiatrist did not.

For openers it is the players. The potential targets are all young women, dressed — to ome -provocatively. Then there is the accessibility.

The public can get closer to tennis players than to any other stars. At Wimbledon on the outside courts the competitors sit almost in your lap. Look at the structure of the court itself," the psychologist told me. "The players are boxed-in, confined, vulnerable. The obsessive fan can imagine that they are playing for him. "Above all," she said, "there is the length of the

matches. Where else can the obsessive get close access to young, fit, scantily clad women for two to three hours at a time? They develop what they think is an empathy with their victim."

R LEWIS MOONIE MP, shadow Sports Minister and a psychiatrist, agreed. "Stalkers are usually inadequate people who develop a fantasy relationship. They see the play-er's face often on TV and feel as if they know them. It can be dangerous, especially for young women. Tournament organis-ers must settle security procedures with the tennis authorities and stick to them."

It is a phenomenon not unlike the hero worship of film

Bailey whips up Christie storm

INFORD CHRISTIE was yesterday accused of feigning injury to cover up certain defeat in the final of last year's 100 metres world championship in Gothenburg. The astonishing claim

was made by Donovan Bai-ley, the Canadian who succeeded him as champion. Bailey said that "absolutely no one was injured in that race", even though the Briton finished flat on his back clutching his ham-string after finishing sixth. "A fit Linford Christie

ran that race," said Bailey. was first out of his blocks but was overtaken. You watch it again.

The claim, denied yesterday by Christie's agent, seems designed to stoke up a row ahead of the Olympics in Atlanta, where Bailey expects Christie to compete despite his declaration st year that he would not defend his title.



Quick as a flash ... Donovan Bailey, the 100m world champion, gives reporters his view of last year's events in Gothenburg PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BARON Richard Williams, page 13

# **Positive drug tests up by 15 per cent**

### John Duncan

over the past year, to the highest level on record. A week when drug "Yes, there have been more abuse in sport has again positives so far, about 15 per cent," said Michele Verroken, come to the fore, the Sports Council yesterday revealed that drug failures head of the Sports Council's from its testing programme in | doping control unit and Brit- | match test for cocaine, Verro-

the United Kingdom were up ish sport's No.1 anti-drugs ken also revealed that sport issued writs against the Inter-by a remarkable 15 per cent baroness, "but we won't know was seeing more failures for national Tennis Federation over the past year, to the the exact number until "social" drugs than before. Over their alleged test failures With the Leyton Orient footballer Roger Stanislaus attending an FA hearing

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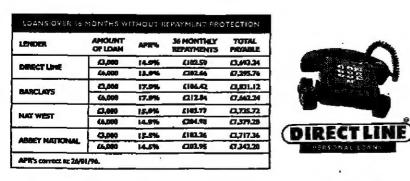
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We've seen increases in all substances listed as banned and we continue to have a high percentage of steroids and a high percentage of stim-ulants. But I guess if anything tomorrow after failing a post the trend is going towards the kind of stimulants that you would expect to see more socially now." That list in-cludes cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines and cocaine. From April 1994 to April

1995 there were 70 failures from 4,374 samples. The 1995-96 figures are not comple ed but will go over 80 for the first time, from about 4,000 samples Whereas steroid detection has remained fairly constant since 1991 at about 20 failures a year, the growth areas in 1994 and 1995 were hallucinogenics (400 per cent increase) and stimu-lants (200 per cent).

The growth comes at a time of increasing financial pressure on the Sports Council; it conducts about 4,000 tests each year but athletes, some governing bodies and the pub-lic are demanding more. Testing each sample costs £130 and the Council has a team of 200 officers collecting sample around the country, each paid up to £50 a day plus expen More of the cost of testing should be shifted on to sponsors, said Verroken, if the programme is to maintain its deterrent effect. "We almost need to have that as a condition of sports sponsorship. Quietly sponsors say, Of

course we don't want to see drugs in sport, but they should be saying it loudly. The Mats Wilander/Karel Novace" case this week has also, ficbred the legal difcan scare off om testing vig-

for cocaine at last year's French Open. The ITF said yesterday:

"From what we know it [the writ] attacks the whole philosophy of our anti-doping programme. We will be vigorously defending ourselves against any claims. So, are governing bodies reluctant to act because of the

consequences of discovering abusers? "It's not just the damage to the image of the sport," said Verroken, "but also the knock-on legal costs to protect and defend their own rules. We see cases now culminating in £150,000 of costs, a huge sum for a gov erning body to have to find." The Sports Council wants an independent arbitration system, with restricted costs, to review disputed drugs

cases." "Either side should be able to go to such arbitra-tion," said Verroken, "and at that stage we know that governing bodies won't be fearful of the cost. Competitors, too, won't have to lay down and take it because they can't afford to fight in the courts."

pair yesterday | Verroken ... record failures



nay or may not be one of a **'hat one British pressure** claims will eventually be ed by her stalker, but he eady taken five years of her son's life.

### )'Kane

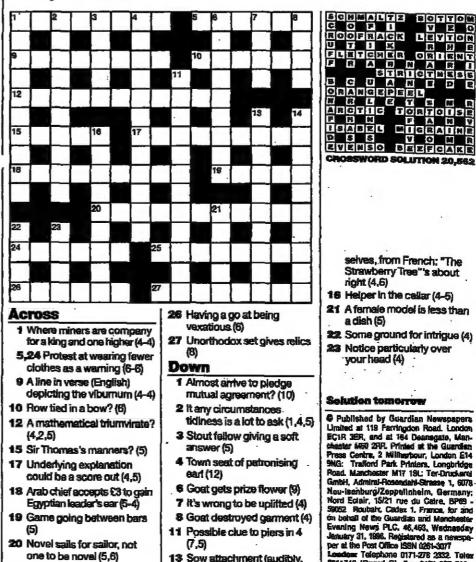
story

Drugs in sport are often les sophisticated than people imagine. Verroken keeps in her office a tin of one "muscle building" compound whose main ingredient is skimmed milk powder. She also tells of the police informing her of a large quantity of cooking oil being sold as testosterone, and an "energy" drink com-pound that turned out to be alcum powder. The cheats, it sometimes get just PHILES.

**Guardian Crossword No 20,563** 

Set by Araucaria

what they deserve.



13 Sow attachment (audibly, you see) into skin for piano in one performance (7-3) 14 Play about stars and

stars in the Thirties, Excep that the studios knew how to

protect their property. The Women's Tennis Association has a list of blacklisted fans who have a record of stalking and whom it wishes to ban. It recently hired security consultants to advise on the prob-lem. But as it ruefully admits, it is in the hands of tournament organisers.

Brenda Perry, the WTA tour director at Melbourne, was kept in the dark about the Seles threat. "This is what the world is coming to," said Martina Navratilova, who has had her share of stalkers. "These are just games we are playing: this is not a matter of life and death." I hope she's right.

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den Tel 0161-882 7200. Fax 0161-832 5351/834 9717, Tel sales 0161-834 8688

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